



Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-88-078

Friday

22 April 1988

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Japan

Toshiba Says U.S. Bill 'Grossly Unfair'
OW220635 Tokyo KYODO in English 0523 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. reacted angrily Friday to the U.S. House of Representatives' approval of an omnibus trade bill containing a sanctioning clause against the Toshiba conglomerate.

Toshiba corp. president Joichi Aoi issued a statement condemning the sanctions as being "grossly unfair," on the ground that Toshiba Corp. did not have "any knowledge of the misconduct by Toshiba Machine Co.," the subsidiary that sold defense-related high technology to Moscow from 1982 to 1984 in breach of Cocom regulations.

The retaliatory clause calls for a ban on all Toshiba Machine sales in the United States for three years and the imposition of a three-year ban on federal government purchases from Toshiba Corp., the parent firm.

Toshiba will ask both the U.S. and Japanese governments to continue to lobby congress to avoid "enactment of the unreasonable sanctions," according to the statement.

The statement said, "we strongly desire that congress will reconsider this matter and reach a fair and reasonable judgment."

The statement said, "if the U.S. imposes sanctions on a foreign firm for violating Cocom regulations, it would be contrary to the principle of Cocom that transgressors of the export regulations must be punished under laws of the individual countries where the incidents occur."

The statement also said, "the sanctions are legally suspect, as they are clearly contrary to the generally accepted legal principle regarding retroactivity."

"We profoundly regret that the many points we have raised have been disregarded," it said.

Toshiba spokesman Yuji Wakayama said it was not appropriate for the U.S. to penalize misconduct which took place in Japan and the Soviet Union in view of the principle of Cocom regulations calling for honoring the sovereignty of each country.

Last year, the Japanese Government ordered the Toshiba group to suspend all exports to the communist bloc for a year. In March, Tokyo district court found Toshiba Machine guilty of illicitly selling milling machines to Moscow. It fined the company 2 million yen and imposed suspended prison sentences on two plant managers.

Washington has claimed that the sale undermined Western security by enabling the Soviets to mass-produce ultra-quiet submarine propellers or powerful aircraft carrier propellers.

Obuchi, Uno View Trade Bill
OW220325 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—The government expressed regret Friday over the passage of an omnibus trade bill by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi said it is very regrettable because the bill incorporates many controversial clauses such as extended powers against unfair foreign trade practices and sanctions on foreign firms including Toshiba Corp. of Japan.

The government spokesman told a press conference after a cabinet meeting that the measure would adversely affect Japan-U.S. relations and the world economy.

Obuchi said the Japanese Government has been expressing concern over the bill. He hoped the Senate would not approve the bill and it would not be enacted.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, issuing a statement, deplored the passage of the trade bill through the U.S. House.

Opposing clauses on sanctions against Japan's Toshiba Group and retaliatory actions against countries practicing unfair trade, the statement said "It is extremely regrettable that this bill with such problematical provisions was passed..."

"The Government of Japan will continue to reiterate its apprehension to the U.S. side ...hoping strongly that such a bill will not be enacted," it said.

Miyazawa Notes 'Complications'
OW220323 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday he was wary of commenting on the passage of an omnibus trade bill by the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday.

"The controversial bill faces many complications before its formalization," Miyazawa told reporters after a Cabinet meeting.

He refused to make any further comments.

Tamura Regrets Bill Passage

OW220303 Tokyo KYODO in English 0238 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura expressed deep regret Friday over the approval by the U.S. House of Representatives of an omnibus trade bill which the Japanese Government says contains protectionist provisions.

Tamura told a press conference following a Cabinet meeting that he is hoping the Senate will not approve the bill without removing or modifying protectionist provisions such as sanctions against Toshiba Corp. and the so-called super 301 clause.

The clause gives the U.S. Trade representative power to rule what constitutes an unfair trade practice by another country.

He also expressed the hope that President Ronald Reagan would veto the bill, in accordance with his pledge made at a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, if the Senate passes it.

Tamura said Congress seems to be preoccupied with waning U.S. competitiveness and may also be motivated by anti-Japanese feelings.

He also reiterated the Government stance that a nation should not impose sanctions against foreign firms that have been punished by their own country for violation of their own country's domestic laws.

Such an action would be an abuse of power, he said.

Commenting on a House vote of 312-107 for the sweeping trade bill, the Japanese trade minister said not all of those who voted for the bill would defy a presidential veto.

Watanabe Says Time Needed To Open Farm Market
OW201057 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT
20 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party Policy Board Chairman Michio Watanabe said Wednesday that a few more years are necessary for Japan to liberalize imports of beef, oranges and orange juice.

Watanabe, speaking at a lecture session here, said he does not think it possible to maintain the farm import quota barrier indefinitely.

However, Japan cannot liberalize farm imports immediately, he said.

Mentioning ongoing bilateral farm trade talks with the United States, Watanabe said the United States opposes Japan's proposal of levying import duties similar to those imposed by European Community countries, in exchange for removing quotas.

Americans say Japan is so rich that the Government should help support domestic producers with substantial subsidies, Watanabe said.

The United States opposes such import duties, saying they represent de facto import controls, according to Government sources.

Farm Dispute Deadline Flexible

OW220543 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato said Friday he does not regard April 28 as an unchangeable deadline (for a resolution of the pending U.S.-Japan farm talks).

In a press conference following a cabinet meeting, Sato said that while May 4, when the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is scheduled to convene a council meeting, is a significant date (for the talks), he is not adamantly insisting on a settlement of the issue by April 28, (when Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita leaves for a visit to Europe).

In answering a query about any change in his stance toward the issue, he said his primary objective is to settle the dispute through bilateral talks at the earliest possible date. In any case, he would make the final decision himself, he added.

The fact that he did not rule out the liberalization of the Japanese market was generally perceived to indicate a possibility of the Government taking such a step.

Planned Visits to W. Europe, E. Asia Approved
OW220403 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will visit Europe April 29-May 9 and Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno will tour Asia April 30-May 8, the Government announced Friday.

Both visits were approved at the day's cabinet session, Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi said.

It will be the first visit by Takeshita to West European countries as prime minister since he assumed the post on November 6 and the visit aims at closer relations with West European countries, the government spokesman said.

The prime minister will leave Tokyo on April 29, arrive in Rome on the morning of April 30 and then be granted an audience with Pope John Paul II. Takeshita will rest there on May 1.

On May 2, Takeshita will meet Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita and pay a courtesy call on President Francesco Cossiga in the afternoon.

Takeshita will leave Rome in the morning of May 3 and arrive in London in the afternoon. That night the prime minister will attend a reception hosted by Bernard Weatherill, speaker of the House of Commons, and another reception sponsored by five groups.

On May 4, Takeshita will attend a tea party in the morning hosted by Prince Charles and a luncheon at noon hosted by London Mayor Greville D. Spratt. In the afternoon Takeshita will meet prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and then attend a dinner she will host in the evening.

The prime minister will leave London and arrive in Bonn on the morning of May 5. Takeshita will meet West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the morning of the day and attend a luncheon to be hosted by Kohl at noon.

Takeshita will pay a courtesy visit to President Richard Von Weizsaecker in the afternoon and attend a dinner in the evening to be hosted by Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The prime minister will hold a press conference with Japanese and foreign reporters around noon on May 6 and then leave Bonn for Munich.

Takeshita will take a rest in Munich on May 7 and leave for Tokyo May 8. He will return to Tokyo on the afternoon of May 9.

Foreign Minister Uno will leave Tokyo April 30 for a nine-day trip which will take him to Hong Kong, China, Indonesia and Singapore.

In Hong Kong, Uno will meet Governor Sir David Wilson.

After visiting Guangzhou and Dalian, Uno will fly to Beijing May 3. During his stay there, he will meet Premier Li Peng, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and other new Chinese leaders elected at the National People's Congress session last week.

Uno will arrive in Jakarta May 5 for a three-day visit to Indonesia, where he will meet President Suharto.

The foreign minister will visit Singapore on May 7 for talks with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew before returning to Tokyo May 8.

Agreement With PRC on Rare Earth Project
OW201107 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT
20 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Japan and China have reached broad agreement on a joint undertaking to tap and process rare earth materials, government officials said Wednesday.

The officials said a Japanese mission led by Heiichi Hamaoka, director general of the Resources and Energy Agency, will visit Beijing on May 2 to exchange notes on the agreement.

The project calls for establishment of a thorough system to mine and refine rare earth resources, they said.

The two sides will study the possibility of joint venture to promote the project, the officials said.

The agreement calls for regular consultations by resources and energy experts, they said.

Party Officials To Meet Gorbachev in May
OW220735 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT
21 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Japan Communist Party No 2 man Tetsuzo Fuwa will meet Soviet Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a regular consultation of the two parties in Moscow May 4, JCP Secretariat chief Mitsuhiro Kaneko said Thursday.

Fuwa, vice chairman of the JCP Central Committee, and Gorbachev will discuss mainly global antinuclear movements, Kaneko said.

The timing has nothing to do with Japan Socialist Party leader Takako Doi's visit to the Soviet Union May 4-12, he said.

Doi is scheduled to meet Gorbachev in Moscow on May 6.

DSP Urges Elections To Decide Tax Reform
OW210431 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT
21 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] leader Saburo Tsukamoto called Thursday for an early general election of the House of Representatives to consult voters on tax reform.

Tsukamoto accused the government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party of leaving tax inequalities untouched and instead trying to increase the tax burden on people from whom taxes are easily collectable.

The head of the No 3 opposition party, speaking at the start of a two-day party convention here, reiterated his opposition to Takeshita's idea of imposing a new indirect tax. He called for a major income tax cut to be implemented before the start of full-fledged discussions on other tax reforms.

Since coming to power last November, Takeshita has repeatedly vowed to make maximum efforts to achieve a sweeping tax reform centering on a new indirect tax to help cope with the rapid increase in the ratio of old people in Japan's population, referred to as the "graying society."

A government tax panel, which Takeshita has asked to study a tax reform plan, is scheduled to file a report on April 28. After that, the LDP tax committee will compile a draft tax reform plan in May.

Mongolia

Ceausescu Gives Speech at Ulaanbaatar Rally
AU211118 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
0903 GMT 21 Apr 88

["President Nicolae Ceausescu's Speech"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, AGERPRES, 21/04/1988—Dear Comrade Jambyn Batmonh,

Dear Comrades and Friends,

From the rostrum of this great Romanian-Mongolian friendship meeting, I extend to you, dear Comrade Jambyn Batmonh, to all working people in Ulaanbaatar and the Mongolian people as a whole warm revolutionary greetings and the best wishes from the Romanian people, our party and state, from my wife and myself.

I want to thank you for your greetings and appreciation of the Romanian people's work. We are also thankful for the warm reception, and the friendship we were extended by the population of your capital. And I am also thankful for the telegrams and letters of congratulation that I received from working people in Mongolia's enterprises and institutions, mass and public organizations. Allow me once again to wish the residents of your capital, all working collectivities further success in their activity.

All this is an expression of the good relationship between the Romanian people and the Mongolian people, between the Romanian Communist Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, of the common willingness to develop further our productive cooperation for the benefit of our two countries and peoples, and of the cause of socialism, peace and understanding worldwide.

The visit, the talks with Comrade Jambyn Batmonh, with the other comrades in the Mongolian party and state leadership were opportunities for an interchange of information on the work of our parties and peoples for socialist construction, as well as for a broad exchange of views on the international situation.

Moreover, we agreed to make further efforts and expand the Romanian-Mongolian cooperation. I trust the visit, the talks and the understandings we came to would help raise the cooperation between our two countries, parties and peoples to a higher level, and their firm advance on the path of socialist construction, welfare and happiness.

It gives me great pleasure to stress that the Romanian-Mongolian relations have been developing in all spheres on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Dear comrades and friends,

We learnt during our visit about the achievements and concerns of the friendly Mongolian people in its efforts to implement the goals of the Nineteenth Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party. We are very glad for your achievements on which we sincerely congratulate you and wish you with all our hearts new and ever bigger success in socialist construction, in the continuing rise of the living standard of all working people, of the entire Mongolian people.

The Romanian people is taking action to carry out its economic and social development programmes, in line with the decisions of the Party's Thirteenth Congress and National Conference. This will make Romania a medium developed country until the end of this decade.

We have ensured the continuing development of socialist—state and cooperative—property, the administration of society on the basis of the national plan. Our special emphasis is on the management of our material and human resources, on the implementation of the new revolution in science and technology and the new agrarian revolution. We allocated at all times about 30 per cent of the national income to economic and social development, which has resulted in a strong material base, the harmonious development of the forces of production in the territory, and a higher general standard of living—material as well as spiritual. We are greatly concerned to strongly develop science, education and culture, to mould the new, purposeful construction of socialism and communism.

In all our work we started and start from the idea that socialism is built with the people for the people, that the new system cannot be built otherwise than through the development and improvement of the revolutionary worker democracy. In the past twenty years we created and bettered a broad socialist democracy system as part of which the working people—in their capacity as owners, producers and beneficiaries—the entire people take

part in economic and social administration, in the fulfilment of the country's development programmes. In the seventies we put a new economic and financial mechanism to work that gives greater responsibilities to all units, to the working people for the fulfilment of the programmes in force, for making the economy more efficient and profitable.

We worked and work to strengthen the political leading role in society of the party, the vital centre of our socialist nation, which we see as an essential condition, a law of the development and improvement of the new social system.

Dear comrades,

We assess the achievements of each socialist country as a contribution of utmost significance to the general cause of socialism, to its growing might and prestige worldwide. The Romanian Communist Party starts from the idea that socialism is built in conditions that differ from country to country, that there is and cannot be just one model of socialist construction, that each party, each people should be free to choose its own development path, its own way of building the socialist and communist society, by applying the general laws and principles of scientific socialism to the realities in one's own country.

In this spirit, we view the achievements of the Romanian people and of the Mongolian people in the construction of the new system, the durable friendly and cooperative ties established between our two parties and peoples as an active contribution of Romania and Mongolia to the triumph of the cause of socialism, of peace and progress worldwide.

Dear Comrades,

The international situation continues to be serious and complex as a result of the continuing arms race, of the nuclear one more particularly, of the persistence and even escalation of military conflicts in various parts of the world, of the policy of force and threat of force, of interference in the domestic affairs of states.

Furthermore, the gap between rich and poor countries is widening as inequitable monetary and financial policies and protectionist measures are gaining scope and new forms of colonialist and neocolonialist domination are emerging.

The nuclear arms, the other arms of mass destruction, the political, economic and military contradictions strongly call for a radical change in international thinking and action, for a new constructive approach to the problems of the contemporary world.

The treaty that the Soviet Union and the United States of America signed to eliminate medium and shorter range missiles is a first step toward nuclear disarmament. However, huge nuclear stockpiles still remain that can destroy mankind several times.

For this reason, the fundamental issue of our time is to pass to the total elimination of nuclear arms, the halting of the arms race, the safeguarding of the foremost right of individuals, of people to a free and dignified existence, to life and peace. Resolute action is further needed to make new agreements that should provide for the stepwise elimination of nuclear weapons, the cessation of nuclear tests and the prevention of the militarization of space.

At the same time, firm action is needed to eliminate chemical weapons and substantially cut conventional arms, troops and military budgets.

As a European country, Romania works for the strengthening of security and free, broad development of collaboration among the states in the continent. We are for the conclusion, at the Vienna meeting, of appropriate understandings on the improvement of relationships and of collaboration among European states, the endorsement of tangible disarmament measures, the achievement of a united Europe for the safeguarding of a lasting peace in our continent and the world over.

Romania works firmly for the strengthening of collaboration and confidence in the Balkans, for the transformation of this region into a zone of good neighbourhood, peace and cooperation, free of nuclear and chemical weapons, of foreign troops and military bases. We consider that an important role is to be played by the calling of a summit of Balkan heads of state and government.

Likewise, we support the creation of nuclear-free zones of good neighbourliness, in northern and central Europe, in Asia, Africa and other continents.

We fully back the Mongolian People's Republic's initiatives for the creation in Asia and the Pacific of a zone of good neighbourliness and collaboration. The creation of such zones in this part of the world too is of great significance, not only for countries in Asia and the Pacific but also for world peace.

We believe that efforts should be stepped up to solve politically, negotiations, all conflicts and litigious issues in the Middle East, in Southeast Asia, in Africa and other regions of the world.

The serious economic situation which affects all people, mostly the developing countries, requires a global settlement of the underdevelopment problems, particularly of the developing countries' foreign debt and the establishment of a new international economic order, based on equity, equality and mutual advantage.

Romania militates for the increase of the role of the United Nations Organization, of other organisms in the international life, for the participation of all states, irrespective of size or social system, on an equal footing, of the small and medium, developing and non-aligned countries in particular, in the democratic settlement of the problems on which the ensurance of people's peace and progress depend.

Dear comrades,

Our country develops relations with all socialist countries, for the strengthening of their solidarity and multilateral collaboration, as a must in the successful construction of socialism in each country, for the active participation in the settlement of the serious issues of the contemporary epoch for the triumph of peace worldwide.

We work for the broadening of the relations with the developing countries, with the developed capitalist countries, with all the states of the world, in the interests of international peace and collaboration.

Romania unwaveringly places at the basis of its international links the principles of full equality of rights, the observance of national independence and sovereignty, each people's right to choose the development path it wishes with no outside interference.

The Romanian Communist Party attaches great significance to the continual development of the relations of collaboration and solidarity with the communist and worker parties, on the basis of the principles of equality, autonomy and each party's right to choose its political line, strategy and tactics self-reliantly, according to specific conditions in each country.

Likewise, we broadly develop the collaboration with the socialist, social-democratic parties, with national liberation movements, with progressive, democratic forces everywhere in the struggle for peace, security and social progress.

We do believe that, working in concert, the progressive and realistic forces, people in all continents may change the current international situation, may secure the triumph of reason, each people's freedom and independence, may impose disarmament and peace the world over, the building of a better and more just world.

Dear comrades and friends,

Expressing full satisfaction for the talks I had with Jambyn Batmonh, with other party and state leaders, for the understandings we have concluded with the Mongolian People's Republic, I want to assure you that the Romanian Communist Party, the Romanian Government and people will work most resolutely for a more

powerful development of the links of many-sided collaboration, of socialist construction in our countries, the rise in the peoples' standard of living materially and spiritually.

Once again, at this meeting of friendship, I address you, communists, the whole Mongolian people, our wishes of new and bigger successes in the socialist construction, in the implementation of the resolutions of the 19th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

Long live the friendship and collaboration between the Romanian Communist Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Mongolian People's Republic, between our peoples.

May the collaboration between our socialist countries strengthen and develop continually.

May the unity of action of communist and worker parties, of our socialist countries develop.

May the unity of action of communist and worker parties with other parties—socialist, social-democratic, with all democratic, progressive forces, with the anti-imperialist forces everywhere, with all world peoples develop.

May the cause of socialism, progress and peace worldwide triumph.

North Korea

'Deliberate Military Provocation' by South
SK211550 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1500 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The South Korean puppets undertook the grave military provocation of firing several gun shells at a guard post of our side in the western part of the frontline.

At around 1910 [1010 GMT] on 21 April, the South Korean puppets undertook a grave military provocation of firing several gun shells at a guard post located in an area of our side in Pukhari, Changpung County, Kaesong City, in the western part of the frontline.

Because of their reckless gunfire, the safety of members of our side's civil police on routine duty was seriously threatened and facilities at the guard posts have been destroyed.

It was entirely due to the patience exercised by our side that this incident has not escalated into a military clash between the two sides.

It was a deliberate military provocation maneuver designed to cook up an excuse to suppress the South Korean people, who have risen up in the anti-U.S. and antigovernment struggle for democratization with the National Assembly elections approaching, that the South

Korean puppets intentionally undertook a military provocation of setting fire to a forest in the Demilitarized Zone south of Pyongyang in the central part of the frontline on the afternoon of 17 April, thereby burning a forest of some 1,200 chongbo in area on our side. Later, they even committed the grave act of firing guns at the area of our side on 21 April.

The South Korean puppets should discontinue all military provocations against us right away.

If, despite our warnings, the South Korean puppets continue to undertake reckless military provocations, artificially straining the situation, they will take full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom.

Kim Il-song Receives Soviet Military Delegation
SK221253 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1042 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (kcna)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting Soviet military delegation led by General Petr Lushev, first vice-minister of defence of the Soviet Union.

Present there were O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, and General Kim Kwang-chin of the Korean People's Army.

Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich was also on hand.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He received a gift from them.

U.S. Attack on Iranian Platforms Decried
SK220503 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0450 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists' barbarous armed attack on the Iranian oil platforms and military targets clearly reveal once again that they are the truculent aggressors who dare commit any shameful behaviour against an independent and sovereign state if it is for their interests and the prime enemy of world peace, declares MINJU CHOSON today in a signed commentary.

The paper says:

The U.S. imperialists are trying to justify their criminal acts, alleging that the recent attack was a "self-defensive measure" and "retaliation" against what they called "threat" from Iran. No one, however, can believe in their allegation.

It is nobody's secret that the U.S. ruling circles take it as the state policy to strike with a big "stick" the progressive and revolutionary countries which refuse to bow down to them.

The paper further says:

This time, the U.S. imperialists launched another armed attack on Iran, but this will bring nothing to them.

The Iranian people are renewing their determination to resolutely fight against the aggression by the U.S. imperialists in response to the call of the government on all people to turn out in the sacred defence of the state.

The Korean people vehemently denounce the barbarous atrocity of the U.S. imperialists and express firm solidarity with the Iranian people in the struggle to defend national sovereignty.

U.S. Claim of 'Benefits' for South Decried
SK220504 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0445 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—The U.S. authorities described the military occupation of South Korea by their armed forces as something like giving economic "benefits" to the South Korean people.

Hitting at this outrageous sophism, a signed commentary of NODONG SINMUN today says:

Saying they have hired tens of thousands of South Koreans as "workers" belonging to U.S. army units and are paying them a large sum of salary, the U.S. authorities contended that without the U.S. forces they could not help being left jobless.

This is a brazen nonsense and thinly-veiled trick.

The U.S. forces' occupation of South Korea is a brigandish act of aggression, a brutal encroachment on the independent rights of the Korean people.

It is because of this occupation that Korea was divided and her uniform development has been obstructed and the South Korean people have been reduced to colonial slaves and suffering untold misfortunes and hardships.

Talking about the "benefit" from their occupation of South Korea is a chicanery of those who are accustomed to aggression and pillage, the height of shamelessness.

In working hard to keep up their occupation of South Korea by all means and methods the U.S. imperialists seek to turn South Korea further into a hotbed of nuclear war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other socialist countries and unleash a new war.

Their occupation of South Korea must be ended at an early date and the United States withdraw its forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea without delay.

Foreign Papers Denounce 'Team Spirit-88'

*SK211404 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1459 GMT 20 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Papers of socialist countries recently published commentaries rapping the "Team Spirit 88" joint manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

The Soviet paper TRUD noted that the manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and the South Korean puppet army were aimed at frightening all the people who call for a peaceful reunification of Korea and they are by nature exercises for a nuclear war of aggression.

The Soviet Union supports the plan of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to convert the Korean peninsula into a zone of peace and cooperation free from nuclear weapons, declared the paper.

The Romanian paper SCINTEIA said the provocative "Team Spirit 88" involving huge armed forces is aimed at bringing the tensions on the Korean peninsula to a more acute phase.

The GDR paper DER MORGEN said the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula is an urgent requisite to world peace at the present juncture. If a North-South joint conference is convened, it will bring a decisive turn to the North-South relations and greatly contribute to peace in Asia and the world, stressed the paper.

The Czechoslovak paper LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE noted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea entered into a state of combat mobilisation to defend the country, with the provocative and aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit 88" getting more pronounced and the situation strained.

The Bulgarian Paper NARODNA ARMIYA exposed the aggressive nature of the war game, saying: the mobilisation of a U.S. carrier of supersonic planes loaded with nuclear weapons along with naval strike forces in the manoeuvres clearly indicate to what dangerous extent the United States has gone in its policy toward the Korean peninsula.

South Opposition Figure Gives 'Declaration'

*SK220439 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0420 GMT 22 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—A South Korean opposition figure made public on April 17 a "declaration of conscience" of former South Korean "Prime Minister" Kim Chong-yol exposing the intrigues of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The "declaration of conscience" laid bare 12 points of crimes.

It said:

"'Presidential election' was a computer-operated drama co-staged by the 'governments' of the United States, Japan and South Korea" and "the KAL incident was an international humbug practised by the 'governments' of the United States, Japan, Bahrain and South Korea through their prior conspiracy to give birth to the No Tae-u regime."

Meetings Abroad Mark Kim Il-song's Birthday

*SK221020 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1003 GMT 22 Apr 88*

[Spelling of names as received]

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—Meetings were recently held in foreign countries to celebrate the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

John McHimbi, member of the National Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania and secretary of the Dar-es-Salaam regional party committee, spoke at a central meeting held in Tanzania. He highly praised the glorious and brilliant revolutionary activities of respected Comrade Kim Il-song who has devoted his all to the accomplishment of the people's cause of chajusong and his brilliant feats for the Korean revolution and the world revolution.

He said the chuche idea founded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gives great strength and encouragement to the progressive people of the world who turned out in the building of a new society.

The president of Meerut University of India spoke at a meeting for the celebration of April 15 cosponsored by the Indian Ghaziabad Society for the scientific study of self-reliance, the society for the study of the chuche philosophy of Meerut University of India and the Indian Ghaziabad Women's Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea.

He said: Respected President Kim Il-song is a great leader who is leading the world revolution to victory with his tireless ideological, theoretical and practical activities. The world progressive people respect him as a great teacher.

Speeches were made at a celebration meeting held at the Inca Garcilaso de la Vega University in Peru.

The vice-president of the University said that the immortal chuche idea fathered by the great leader President Kim Il-song was the first in history to propound a man-centered world outlook implying that man is the

master of everything in the world and inspired the world people with the firm conviction that they are capable of remoulding themselves and transforming and conquering society and nature.

In his speech at a celebration meeting cosponsored by the Sweden-Korea Friendship Association and the organisations for the study of the *chuche* idea in Sweden, the chairman of the association said: President Kim Il-song put forward many reasonable proposals for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and is vigorously leading the people to their realization.

The celebration sponsored by the Harare Provincial Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union was addressed by the chairman of the provincial party committee.

He stressed that President Kim Il-song founded the immortal *chuche* idea and clearly shows the people with its brilliant rays the way of struggle to realise the cause of *chajusong*.

Foreign Ministry Celebrates

SK220449 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0428 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—The Foreign Ministry arranged a film show and a reception on April 21 in celebration of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Invited there were the diplomatic envoys and embassy officials of different countries here.

The attendants appreciated first the Korean documentary film "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Gives On-the-Spot Guidance to the Work in Various Domains of the National Economy".

Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-premier of the Administration Council, made a speech at the reception.

The birth of respected Comrade Kim Il-song marked an occasion of a historical turn in heralding the dawn over *chuche* Korea and advancing from darkness to brightness and it was a grand sunrise which gave origin to a great party, a prosperous fatherland and a dignified nation on this land, he said, and continued:

Comrade Kim Il-song who embarked upon the road of revolution in his early years, representing the desire of the times and the nation, has been devoting his all to the country and the revolution, to the working class and people for 60 odd years.

We will as ever strengthen friendship and solidarity with all the peace-loving people worldwide including the peoples of socialist and non-aligned countries and resolutely struggle to accomplish the cause of global peace and independence under the banner of independence, friendship and peace.

Moustafa Safarini, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, spoke next on behalf of the diplomatic envoys.

He said the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was of weighty significance in the long history of the Korean people's struggle.

His biography is a heroic epic on repulsing colonialists and liberating the country and the nation and a history of struggle to defend the *chajusong* and sovereignty of the nation, make a leaping progress in socialist construction and achieve progress and prosperity of the country, he said.

Referring to the brilliant successes registered by the Korean people in socialist construction, he stated that all these successes are a result of the correct and tested leadership of the dear leader his excellency Kim Chong-il.

Such great successes, he noted, precisely show the sagacity of the leader's tested and bold guidance and the greatness of the people who have fought, closely rallied around their leader.

He stressed that Comrade Kim Il-song advanced a series of proposals and initiatives to create conditions favourable for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Kim Il-song Guidance to Kim Chaek Complex
SK211526 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1505 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—34 projects in the second stage of expansion construction were completed recently at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex to provide a firm guarantee for drastically boosting iron and steel production.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"10 million tons of steel will be produced in 1993 by rebuilding and expanding the existing iron and steel works including the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex."

In recent years President Kim Il-song set forth on several occasions the task to decisively boost the production capacity of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex with good prospect for development and has wisely led the work for its realisation.

He set the goal in each stage of the expansion project and defined a proper order of priority for it and formed strong construction forces, while personally solving questions arising in the construction.

The Kim Chaek iron and steel works has thus turned into a giant comprehensive base of metallurgical industry of the country in a short period.

Countless are stories about his immortal exploits performed in leading the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex for the development of the steel industry.

In order to convert the complex into the biggest comprehensive metallurgical base in Korea, he gave on-the-spot guidance on 20 odd occasions and gave programmatic teachings on hundreds of occasions.

The problem of steel was raised as an urgent problem for building up the economy which was ravaged by the war. In those days, Korea had only one blast furnace in the Kim Chaek iron and steel works. Its rated capacity was 190,000 tons, but, steel makers there were assigned the task of producing 230,000 tons of pig iron from this blast furnace. At that time conservatives said it was impossible.

But the great leader showed deep trust in the workers there, saying that they would certainly put out 230,000 tons of pig iron, if they were informed of the difficult conditions of the country.

Inspired by this trust, the workers made their determination to produce 250,000 tons of pig iron, not 230,000 tons.

President Kim Il-sung called on the steel makers in May 1957 and inspected their tapping operation before the blast furnace for a long while. Greatly inspired by this, the steel makers produced 270,000 tons of pig iron that year.

Entering the 1970s, the great leader initiated a grand construction campaign for converting the Kim Chaek iron and steel works into a giant comprehensive base of metallurgical industry and personally guided it in the van.

He made sure that efforts were concentrated on the expansion project of the Musan Mining Complex, the large-scale blast furnace, coking battery, sintering furnace and rolling mill of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, etc. and called upon the whole country to help them.

And he unrolled a bold blueprint to lay pipelines for the transport of headings along a 98 kilometre section from the Musan mine to the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

In June 1974 when the construction was progressing apace, he visited the construction site again. Acquainting himself with the construction work, he stressed the need

to hasten the project by concentrating efforts on serial production processes and showed deep care about the living conditions of the constructors.

Under his wise leadership large-scale blast furnace, large-scale continuous sintering furnaces, large-scale steel converters, coking battery, rolling mill, large-scale long distance pipelines for the transport of headings, etc. made their appearance in all grandeur one after another in a short span of time.

Now the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex has become a giant comprehensive centre of metallurgical industry of Korea, a "city of iron".

Daily Dedicates Article to Lenin's Birthday
SK220518 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0454 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Friday dedicates a signed article to the 118th birth anniversary of V.I. Lenin.

Noting that the life of V.I. Lenin was that of an outstanding thinker and theoretician and a great revolutionary, the article says:

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said:

"Lenin took over the cause of Marx and propounded Leninism by developing Marxism creatively to suit the new historical conditions in the period of imperialism and proletarian revolution. Thanks to Leninism the October Socialist Revolution emerged victorious and the first state of proletarian dictatorship was born."

Lenin was an outstanding thinker and theoretician who propounded Leninism by developing Marxism creatively to suit the new historical conditions in the period of imperialism and proletarian revolution, and a genius of revolution who brought about a great turn in the struggle of the working class and the masses for freedom and liberation by taking over the cause of Marx.

Lenin who was active in the period of imperialism when antagonisms in capitalist society were carried into extremes, scientifically clarified the essence of imperialism and its historical position, proved the inevitability of its collapse and put forward a theory on the victory of socialist revolution in one country for the first time. He further developed the idea of the class struggle and proletarian dictatorship and laid down organisational and ideological foundations of a revolutionary party of the working class and its tactical principles.

He was a distinguished leader who carried socialism into reality from a scientific idea.

The October socialist revolution carried out under the leadership of Lenin and the Bolshevik party opened a new era of world revolution, a new era of transition from capitalism to socialism and it was a historical event which indicated to mankind a bright road toward communism.

After the victory of the October Revolution, Lenin, by leading the Bolshevik Party and the working class, routed foreign armed invaders and white bandits at home who fell upon the young Soviet state to strangle it in its cradle and defended the gains of socialism and hewed the path toward socialism.

The Soviet people are a people faithful to the cause of Lenin.

They are now accelerating the historical cause of building socialism and communism under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

The Communist Party and government of the Soviet Union and its people faithful to Lenin's cause of peace are making every sincere effort to remove the danger of a nuclear war and achieve global peace. In recent years in particular, the Soviet Union has put forward a series of peace proposals including the proposal to ban nuclear test, realize nuclear disarmament, prohibit the militarisation of space and totally eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of the present century, and are striving hard for their realisation.

The Korean people are sincerely rejoiced over all the achievements made by the fraternal Soviet people in their protracted arduous struggle for revolution and construction and support the just stand and measures taken by the Soviet party and government to ease the international tension, prevent the danger of a new global war and defend peace and security in the world.

The Korean and Soviet peoples have established strong bonds of friendship through a common struggle for the victory of the cause of socialism and communism against imperialism.

The Korean-Soviet friendship and cooperation which have long historical roots are growing in strength and developing as the days go by. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's visit to the Soviet Union in 1986 and his talks with the Soviet party and state leaders in this course were an epochal event in expanding and developing in an allround way the Korean-Soviet relations of friendship.

The Korean people always value the traditional Korean-Soviet friendship and will strive to develop and strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations with the Soviet people in the future, too.

Chuche Role in 'True Revolutionary' Outlook
SK211200 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article headlined "the chuche idea is the true revolutionary world outlook of the communist revolutionary of the chuche type".

The article says:

In his work "On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea" dear comrade Kim Chong-il expounded the idea that the chuche idea is as valuable as life for the communist revolutionary of the chuche type and that arming with the chuche idea makes it possible to keep a political life shining.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said:

"The Korean communist revolutionaries are true revolutionaries who have accepted the chuche idea as their true faith and are devoted to the struggle to accomplish the cause of chuche."

The chuche idea is the correct guiding idea of revolution in our times and the ideological and mental pabulum necessary for the existence and development of the communist revolutionary of the chuche type.

The chuche idea is the revolutionary world outlook which the communist revolutionary of the chuche type should have.

The chuche idea is the lifeline of the communist revolutionary because it helps revolutionaries firmly establish a revolutionary outlook on the leader. The revolutionary outlook on the leader constitutes the core of a revolutionary outlook on the world. The revolutionary outlook on the leader is a correct view and viewpoint towards the position and role of the leader in the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of the working class. It is the standpoint and attitude of holding the leader truly in high esteem. This is the most basic character of the communist revolutionary.

The chuche idea, on the basis of the exposition that the working masses are the subject of history, makes clear that the guidance of the leader is the essential matter for the popular masses to become an independent subject of history.

The theory on the independent subject of revolution and socio-political organism as clarified in the work, the unique idea and theory on the position and role of the leader in socio-political organism in particular, indicates the right way of preparing themselves to be the true communist revolutionary of the chuche type with the revolutionary outlook of the leader.

The chuche idea is also the precious ideological and spiritual pabulum to make the political life of a revolutionary shine forever.

If the communist revolutionary of the chuche type is to discharge his duty and mission and develop himself steadily, only the blood of one type, the blood of the chuche type, should flow through his whole body. The blood of the chuche type for the communist revolutionary of the chuche type is the revolutionary ideas of the great leader and boundless loyalty to him.

The chuche idea is the revolutionary idea which reflects the requirements and interests of the working class and other popular masses.

The chuche idea is also the ideological weapon which true revolutionaries and communists should have in order to purposefully take an active part in the struggle to accomplish the cause of chajusong.

The chuche idea gives the revolutionary world outlook, most correct revolutionary theories, strategy and tactics and methodology of revolution to people.

By evolving revolutionary theories centering on the working people in conformity with the requirements of our era and the essential character of the revolutionary movement, the chuche idea gives most correct exposition of the principles and law of the revolutionary movement and its principled questions and expounds perfect revolutionary theories of communism covering all stages and all fields of the revolutionary movement. At the same time, the chuche idea unites the working masses around the party and the leader as one solid ideological and conscious integrity to form the powerful subject of revolution and enhance its role to the maximum.

Our reality clearly verifies that the chuche idea is as valuable as life for the communist revolutionary of the chuche type.

Daily on Revolutionary Duty, Comradeship
SK220421 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0717 GMT 13 Apr 88

[NODONG SINMUN 13 April special article: "Unity Based on Revolutionary Duty and Comradeship Is a Firm Guarantee for Victory of Our Revolution"]

[Text] Today our people are vigorously accelerating the revolution and construction and adopting an optimistic view of the future of the revolution with firm faith in certain victory. Such faith in victory and the optimistic view of the future of the revolution come from the might of the invincible unity of our revolutionary ranks based on the great chuche idea and their revolutionary comradeship.

The entire course of the Korean revolution of more than half a century shines with the proud history that has been advanced and victorious thanks to the strength of the great unity that has been forged based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship with the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song as its center.

The lofty revolutionary duty and comradeship that the great leader has personally provided through his protracted and arduous struggle is not only a cornerstone of the unity of our party and revolutionary ranks, but the powerful spiritual strength of the most dignified and glorious communist revolutionaries of chuche type.

Our party's cohesion and unity have been firmly deepened today with the advancement of the revolution. This is because the entire party has been firmly united around the leader, as one ideology and with revolutionary duty and comradeship. We are overwhelmed with the revolutionary optimism that we can surmount any difficulties and consummate to the end the revolutionary cause of chuche, which was pioneered in the Down-with-Imperialism Union, upholding the great leader. This is because we have the invincible cohesion and unity based on revolutionary duty and comradeship that we have brilliantly inherited and firmly deepened amid the protracted struggle.

1. Our party and revolutionary ranks are one united body, an eternal social and political organism that has been firmly united around the great leader, based on revolutionary duty and comradeship. That we have such invincible cohesion and unity is precisely the great pride and joy of our party and people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: The leader, the party, and the masses are a social and political organism linked as one life that shares the same destiny. Therefore, established among them are the relations of revolutionary duty and comradeship of helping and loving each other. Revolutionary duty and comradeship function to combine individual persons into a social and political organism.

The revolution leads people to form new human relations outside their individual homes. This is precisely the comradeship of joint struggle for the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people.

Over the course of carrying out the revolution, the leader and revolutionary fighters form a social and political organism that is combined into one life and that shares the same destiny. Therefore, relations of revolutionary duty and comradeship are formed and consolidated between the leader and the fighters. Revolutionary duty and comradeship are a firm duty and love that can be highly enhanced and displayed among those who carry out the revolution upholding the leader's intent and will over the course of the revolution. Revolutionary duty and comradeship are also not only pure and clean

principles that defend and adhere to faith in the leader, but are also true, genuine, and pure love that shares the same destiny to embody the leader's ideology.

When such revolutionary duty and comradeship fill the revolutionary ranks, they can become a sociopolitical organic body solidly united in terms of ideology, will, morality, and duty and realize unity at the highest level, a single-minded unity, in which the revolutionary ranks are firmly united in a single mind and will with the leader at the center.

The revolutionary duty and comradeship that are highly displayed without our party and revolutionary ranks are the love based on a noble aspiration and desire to share the will and fate with a great leader. Because such duty and comradeship have filled every unit and all sites of socialist construction, the cohesion and unity of our party and ranks have been consolidated as invincible and upsurges are being endlessly effected in our revolution and construction.

The revolutionary duty and comradeship are, above all, an important guarantor that enables our cohesion and unity to thoroughly ensure the firmness of its center.

The center of unity is the leader. The cohesion and unity of the revolutionary ranks centered on their leader become firm and unwavering when they are based on the leader's greatness, as well as on the endless loyalty and duty of the revolutionary fighters who follow the leader.

When the revolutionary fighters uphold the leader and are united firmly around him, out of their revolutionary conviction and duty, not out of an obligation of any kind, the unity based on a single center can be realized and consolidated.

The firmness of unity stems from the firmness of its center and it can be ensured by the revolutionary duty and comradeship. From the beginning of its shaping, the cohesion and unity of our revolutionary ranks has been thoroughly ensured of the firmness of the center. This has been made possible by the existence of a revolutionary duty and comradeship of absolute trust and by following the leader, along with the leader's greatness.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song is a great leader of the revolution, a mentor, and an intimate revolutionary comrade. It was because they were completely charmed by the leader's greatness, noble virtues, and comradeship that the Korean communists and people followed the great leader by upholding him at the center of cohesion. Therefore, all the communists in Korea trusted the respected and beloved General Kim Il-song and embarked upon the revolutionary road, following him even before they knew about the revolution.

Over the course of going through arduous difficulties, the respected and beloved leader trusted and loved his revolutionary comrades and the revolutionary fighters remained loyal to him, and in the process our cohesion and unity have been consolidated.

Our cohesion and unity, which have been consolidated and developed based on a single spirit, is being more firmly cemented amid the historical march of imbuing society with the *chuche* idea.

The bosom of our party, which always trusts and loves the revolutionary fighters, is boundlessly benevolent and the song about comradeship is at once the noble intentions of our party. This enables our party members and working people to cement their conviction and will to share the same will and fate with the leader of the revolution under all circumstances.

In this way, the center of cohesion and unity of our party and the revolutionary ranks becomes more firm and the might of unity grows 100-fold stronger with the passage of time.

The revolutionary duty and comradeship are also a firm basis that enables our cohesion and unity to thoroughly ensure their ideological purity. The genuine unity of the revolutionary ranks is at once ideological and volitional unity and can be consolidated only when it is based on revolutionary duty and comradeship.

Since the revolutionary duty and comradeship are love that essentially comes to flower among revolutionaries who think and act in line with the leader's ideology and will, the higher it is displayed, the more thoroughly the ideological purity of the ranks can be ensured.

Revolutionaries can carry out the revolution and establish genuine comradely relations only when they uphold the ideas and leadership of the revolutionary leader who is the ideological and theoretical brain and the center of unity. The revolution advances and triumphs thanks to the leader's ideas and leadership and the revolutionaries who have embarked upon a road of struggle with determination to have the leader's will realized.

It is also important to better carry out the revolution by upholding the leader's ideas that the revolutionaries should establish a comradely relationship with each other and share life and death with each other. Therefore, the revolutionaries must assume sharing the same will with the leader under all circumstances and thinking and acting according to the leader's ideas as the fundamental principle in comradely relations and as the first demand of comradeship.

The revolutionaries resolutely reject all other forms of union except comradely union based on the leader's ideas and will.

The Korean communists have traversed a long revolutionary path upholding the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and sharing with each other and even today are bringing the revolutionary duty and comradeship into full blossom along the road of upholding the revolutionary leader.

It is thanks to the highly displayed comradeship based on loyalty to the leader that genuine comradely ties have been established and the purity of unity has been thoroughly defended over a long historical period of time.

The banner that the true Korean communists uplifted from the beginning was the banner of unity. The banner of cohesion based on loyalty urges sharing life and death with the leader of the revolution.

"Let us live together and die together along the road of realizing the leader's ideas"—this was the firm code of faith that struck firm roots in their hearts throughout their lives.

It was thanks to the fact that although they were united along the revolutionary road of sharing the same will with the leader, if anything went against the will of the leader, even a little bit, they waged struggle against it on the principle that the ideological purity of the cohesion and unity of the revolutionary ranks has been firmly ensured.

In this way, the factional filth that had long plagued the Korean communist movement has been thoroughly liquidated and our cohesion and unity have reached the highest level of purity in terms of ideology, morality, and duty.

The revolutionary duty and comradeship that have been forged amid arduous revolutionary struggle have become the blood vessel of our party and the revolutionary ranks that have now become united as one with the leader of the revolution as their center.

The unanimous aspirations and will that pulse in the heart of our revolutionary ranks is that everyone, regardless of whether they are old fighters who have fought since the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle braving all the arduous difficulties, or old party members, or the new generations should consummate the chuche cause by upholding the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party center by pooling their ideas, wisdom, and strength.

Thus, the entire party and all the people have established most solid comradely ties based on the leader's ideas and loyalty to him, even if they are in different guard posts with different duty, they are united in one mind and will.

Because the leader, the party, and the masses are firmly united together with the revolutionary duty and comradeship and constituted a social and political organism, there is nothing that we are afraid of nor is there a fortress that we cannot occupy.

Such a revolutionary duty and comradeship have been highly demonstrated among our revolutionary ranks from the dawn of the Korean revolution to the present and based on them, most solid unity and cohesion have been achieved. This is totally attributable to the fact that we upheld the great leader.

What the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song firmly trusted when he was pioneering the future of the Korean revolution in the early days under the gloomy circumstances were only his revolutionary comrades and the unity which was based on duty and comradeship.

The great leader firmly believed that if there are genuine revolutionary comrades with whom he can share his fate, he was not afraid of any powerful enemy and he could overcome any difficult trial. Thus, the respected leader even personally walked a long distance of several hundred and several thousand ri [unit of distance] for the sake of one revolutionary comrade and shared even a spoonful of misikaru [powder of roasted glutinous rice], thus sharing joys and sorrows with revolutionary fighters.

On this road, the great leader made a courageous decision to burn the documents of Minsaengdan and ignited the flames of Chollima for a great upsurge during the difficult postwar days, firmly trusting the working class in Kangson. This is a lofty epic on the revolutionary duty and comradeship that can be created only by the great leader who cherishes boundless love, benevolence, and capacious mind toward the comrades.

It is a rule that love and trust accompany duty and loyalty. The leader's hearty affection and benevolence toward the revolutionary fighters and the noble revolutionary spirit to fight by totally entrusting the leader with their destiny are the basic source which generated the revolutionary duty and comradeship of the Korean communists and that enabled them to achieve solid unity and cohesion.

Today the fine tradition of revolutionary duty and comradeship is being continuously demonstrated in the entire party and society because we uphold the great leader at the van of our revolution.

In his work "On some problems of education in the chuche idea," dear Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated the profound principle of the revolutionary duty and comradeship and clearly put forth a unique idea and theory for further consolidating the kinship unity among the leader, the party, and the masses by highly demonstrating the revolutionary duty and comradeship.

This shows the firm will of our party center to tenaciously defend and adhere to the tradition of the revolutionary comradeship achieved by the great leader and to brilliantly inherit it. Practical experiences prove that the revolutionary duty and comradeship are highly displayed when people uphold the great leader who have uncommon wisdom, refined leadership, boundless benevolence, and capacious mind and that based on them, the most solid unity and cohesion can be achieved.

That we are carrying out the revolution with indomitable unity and cohesion that are based on revolutionary duty and comradeship by upholding the great leader at the van of our revolution is a boundless pride of our people.

2. The unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks which are based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship are the source of indomitable strength which ensures the victorious advance of the Korean revolution and its future.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In the course of my revolutionary struggle, I keenly realized that revolutionary comradeship and revolutionary unity are the key to all of our victories.

Our revolution which was pioneered in the Paektu forest overcame truly arduous trials. What gave courage to the Korean communists on the path of such a long and arduous struggle and what encouraged them to vigorously advance by giving them indomitable strength were the unity based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship.

If we had no such unity, we could never have won victories in the two fierce revolutionary wars nor could we have carried out the gigantic cause of building a powerful socialist country by rising from the ashes after the war.

Because there is the unity based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship, the cause of chuche-orientation of the entire society is being victoriously carried out today. The indomitable strength of the unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks which are based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship is that it enables us to tenaciously defend and protect the leader of the revolution and to brilliantly achieve the leader's ideas and intentions.

The most important factor for the revolutionaries is to tenaciously defend and protect the leader of the revolution. Without this, we cannot talk about missions and honor of revolutionaries nor can we think of any unity. The unity in defending and protecting the leader of the revolution can be firmly achieved and can display indomitable strength when it is based on the duty and comradeship. Tenaciously defending and protecting their leader are the supreme expression of the revolutionary duty and comradeship. Duty and comradeship are to be expressed in the highest stage of the relations between the leader and the fighters. Just as a son follows

and truly respects his parents, the loyalty and comradeship of revolutionary fighters to the leader who gave them a political life and leads it are absolute and unconditional.

Therefore, those who are keenly aware of the leader's love and benevolence and who have the sense of duty to him will carry out the revolution to the end by upholding the leader under any circumstances.

At the dawn of our revolution, the young communists including Kim Hyok and Cha Kwang-su keenly realized that the Korean revolution is itself the very great Comrade Hanbyol [one star] and upheld the respected leader as the sun of the nation. They fought to implement the leader's ideas and lines by willingly devoting their lives and strength. Thus, the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters unhesitatingly held off the enemy's bullets even with their bodies to defend and protect the great general and kept their revolutionary integrity and honor even in prison and gallows.

Today the unity and cohesion based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship are displaying indomitable strength because all party members and workers live and struggle by deeply cherishing the loyalty and will to the leader of the revolution. The revolutionary traits to become a shield to defend and protect our party center, totally entrusting the party with their destinies, and to breathe with the party at any place and any time, firmly dominate the whole party and society.

The will and policy of the party center are handed down to the lowest echelons without hindrance and the masses' intentions are conveyed to the party in a timely manner. Thus, the party and the masses are firmly linked with each other with one blood vessel. Today our party members and workers think that the party's policy is a great love and trust extended to them from the motherly party instead of regarding it as an order or mission and accept it as a boundless joy and honor. Thus, they are highly demonstrating the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality in implementing this policy.

As long as there are such a great unity and cohesion, the Korean revolution will victoriously advance, as in the past, by defending and protecting the great leader no matter how fierce a storm they may encounter.

The might of the unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks which are based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship lies in the fact that it encourages our party members and workers to highly demonstrate the sense of unprecedented devotion and mass heroism in the revolution and construction by always cherishing the confidence and the spirit of struggle.

It is an honor indeed to be engaged in the revolution. However, one will face difficulties and ordeals and will perspire and shed blood in it. On this road of arduous

struggle, the revolutionaries can trust no one but the party and leader and the revolutionary comrades with whom they are fighting together upholding the leader.

Living and struggling amid the care of the party and leader and amid the love of his comrades as well—this is the course of life for the revolutionaries. When people are in trouble, they will turn to organizations and comrades before anything else. When one has the rock-firm faith in the leader and is surrounded by revolutionary comrades who share the same will with him, he will not be afraid of the large number of the enemy descending upon him and will feel secure even in the face of difficult and complicated tasks.

The optimistic spirit premised on the conviction that one can triumph if he struggles based on comradeship and the indomitable revolutionary spirit under any difficult conditions and if he never bends his integrity and honor under any circumstances stems from the comradesly love and unity based on it.

A revolution is something that is carried out based on faith and a sense of obligation. If one is encouraged by the leader's trust and love, he can advance to the end of a revolutionary road no matter how distant it may be and overcome any difficulty with a smile on his face. This is the faith that has taken hold of the Korean communists in the course of the protracted struggle.

Thanks to such a faith, the Korean communists and the people fought with their bare hands in the difficulties days of the bloody anti-Japanese struggle by snatching weapons from the enemy and waged a hand-to-hand combat with the enemy on Hill 1211 going through a sea of flames in which pulverized rocks struggled with optimism that filled their hearts, without losing faith, out of the conviction that they will eventually triumph.

People who have awakened to this great strength in which the leader, party, and the masses are united as one based on revolutionary duty and comradeship are invincible.

Apart from the might of the unity formed around the party and leader in terms of ideology, will, morality, and duty, it is impossible to conceive that a great world-class lockgate has been built over the high seas of 20 li within a short period of 5 years, something that was beyond imagination in the past. And apart from the comradesly cooperation and force of unity of mutual assistance and guidance, it is impossible to talk about the heroic exploits and miracles being created in today's great construction march, including the construction of the Suncheon Vinalon Complex and Kwangbok Street.

Of course, there can be ordeals on the road of revolution and one can encounter the enemy's challenge to it. Although some (?expulsionists) who are scared in the face of the enemy's last-ditch offensive and difficulties could appear among us, we experience no such things as

hesitation or restlessness as our faith in the party and leader and as our will is clear-cut. Rather, our determination and will to set examples as revolutionaries are becoming more tenacious.

Because they believe in the indomitable strength of the unity formed around the party and leader, our party members and working people walk on the road of self-reliance and arduous struggle, instead of looking at somebody else, with constant confidence in their own strength, displaying high the matchless devotion and mass heroism in socialist construction.

The might of the unity of our revolutionary ranks which are based on revolutionary duty and comradeship also lies in the fact that it firmly prepares our party members and working people as truly *chuche*-type communist people and that it brings to full bloom in our society the good communist custom that one is for all and all is for one.

Since the comradesly ties are essentially ties of trust and love, the revolutionary duty and love that blossom between the leader and fighters are endlessly warm and pure with no stains.

To share one's feelings with comrades sharing the same will, with fate entrusted to the leader, and to struggle by sacrificing everything is the duty and love of the revolutionaries. Such things as establishing human relations based on money or materials as bourgeois do and such things as becoming close to those that are favorable to them and putting a distance between them when they become unfavorable are absent in our revolutionary ranks which are united by the revolutionary duty.

Because they base themselves on the collective view of life, not on the individual view, the revolutionaries experience truly rewarding life and happiness in devoting themselves in the struggle to achieve the common cause—independence for the popular masses—in firm unity with the revolutionary duty and comradeship under the leadership of the party and leader.

It was because they had been indoctrinated and brought up in the revolutionary ranks united with the duty and comradeship that the Korean communists, who have struggled upholding the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, have been able to grow up as the most beautiful and noble human beings and the most dignified and true communist revolutionaries.

What the Korean communists, who have embarked upon a road of struggle with firm determination, cannot buy no matter how much money they have was the boundless love of the comrades. Because they were firmly convinced through arduous revolutionary practice that the comradesly love that is connected to a great leader alone is the true love that correctly guides their fate and brings their lives to full bloom, they have never left the bosom of the great leader although they had to sleep on snow and had nothing to chew on but roots,

never betraying their duty and comradeship even at the risk of their youthful lives. Indeed, the Korean communists' revolutionary duty and comradeship was stronger than diamond and as pure as (?crystal). The good custom of the revolutionary duty and comradeship that have been highly displayed among the Korean communists are blooming in full in our society. Today, the slogan reading "One for all and all for one" has become a firm principle that governs the people in their living in our society.

Mutually assisting and guiding, while upholding the great leader's ideas and leadership, despite the differences in their nature, hobby, occupation, and guard posts is the revolutionary trait of our society. Because the revolutionary duty and comradeship fill the society, people value the interests of groups and society more than individual interests and the trait of devoting themselves to the party and revolution like unsung heroes, without ever counting the years they have given to the party and the revolution is highly displayed in every corner of society.

Thus, the work of remolding man, such a brave difficult task, is being brilliantly realized in our country and the struggle to capture the communist ideological and material heights are also equally being vigorously accelerated.

In the course of the arduous but rewarding struggle following a great leader, the Korean communists and people have deeply realized how valuable the revolutionary duty and comradeship are and what indomitable might the unity based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship displays in the revolution and construction.

It is the most valuable and noble lesson that our people have cherished deep in their hearts through their practical living that they can lead the most valuable life as a revolutionary on the road where the leader, party, and the masses, uniting firmly with each other with the duty and comradeship, share life and death and weal and woe with each other and that they can be ever-victorious under any circumstances.

3. It is the firm conviction and will of our party and people to endlessly value highly as life the unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks based on revolutionary fidelity and comradeship and to resolutely adhere to them from generation to generation.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the party Central Committee, has noted: When all party members and all people are firmly united around the leader, no power in the world will match it, and our revolution will be ever-victorious.

To firmly solidify the cohesion based on revolutionary fidelity and comradeship becomes all the more important as revolution advances far and is deepened and

developed. As time passes and as the struggle continues, the relations between the leader and fighters which is formed on the road of revolution is further deepened and made stronger. These relations, in which the leader cares for and love the fighters and the fighters trust and endlessly uphold the leader, are a firm guarantee that enables the revolutionary cause to be purely connected in one lineage and completed no matter what hardship may be encountered.

Today we are carrying out the historical cause of modeling the entire society on the *chuche* idea under the leadership of the glorious party. This is a great cause that all party members and all people should complete by firmly uniting themselves around the great leader in revolutionary fidelity and comradeship. Therefore, our revolutionary fidelity and comradeship should be directed thoroughly in the direction in which all functionaries, party members, and working people solidify and develop them with true comradely relations among them.

The ideology and will of our party center, which brilliantly leads the cause of modeling the whole society on the *chuche* idea, are the very will of the Korean revolution. It is the firm position to inherit and complete to the end the *chuche* revolutionary cause pioneered with the Down-With-Imperialism Union [DIU], and the firm conviction to accelerate socialist construction vigorously, under all circumstances, holding aloft the revolutionary banner.

Our revolutionary fidelity and comradeship must consist in solidifying the firm conviction to share the will of the leader of the revolution and the destiny with him, and they should actively contribute to making our single-hearted unity firm and making the revolution and construction vigorously advanced.

Cherishing the greatness of the revolutionary leader in one's heart as one's faith and firmly establishing the revolutionary outlook on the leader is an important requisite to firmly solidifying the unity based on revolutionary fidelity and cohesion. The revolutionary fidelity and comradeship are not subject to change depending upon the environment or conditions. One who adheres to revolutionary fidelity invariably shares life, death, and destiny with the leader, the party, and the popular masses—the parent body of his life.

If anyone holds disloyal feelings to the motherland which bore him and brought him up or betrays his motherland when it is in danger and tries to save his life only, no people of any country will regard him as one who has conscience. Anyone who has revolutionary fidelity shares joy, sorrow, and destiny with the leader, the party, and the motherland that brought him up no matter what wind may blow and no matter what difficult environment he may find himself in.

We are the true Korean revolutionaries who take pride in carrying out the revolution upholding the great party and leader. All Korean communist revolutionaries have been given an eternal political life by the fatherly leader, and have been brought up to be true revolutionaries in the love and care of the leader. The respected and beloved leader's love and trust toward the revolutionary fighters are invariable and absolute forever. The question is how our functionaries and working people will enthusiastically demonstrate their loyalty and fidelity always not to forget and to repay the trust and love of the party and the leader.

Those who have firm trust and loyal fidelity toward the revolutionary leader can follow the road of loyalty invariably, rain or shine. Revolutionary fidelity and comradeship are not an abstract concept. They are intensively demonstrated in the practicing struggle to implement the party policy by upholding the revolutionary leader and helping each other. Furthermore, today's exciting reality brist with the 200-day campaign demands that the virtue of revolutionary comradeship be highly demonstrated in implementing the party policy.

The functionaries and working people are the revolutionary comrades who share the will, joy, and sorrow on the road of implementing the will of the party and the leader and the party policy. The functionaries should always trust and love them as genuine revolutionary comrades with a conviction that they can carry out everything when they and the masses unite their efforts, and by going into reality and living together with them, they should share joy and sorrow with them. Those who are willing to purely uphold the party's will have warm feelings, with comradely fraternity and respect, toward the functionaries loyal to the party, and implement the party policy closely working with them.

Functionaries, party members, and workers should attain the unity based on the loyalty to the party and leader, and based on the duty and comradeship and should more thoroughly establish the revolutionary trait to help and lead one another through practical work.

The chuche-type communist revolutionaries are not only dignified, noble, and beautiful ideologically and spiritually but also have rich humanity. The revolutionary duty and comradeship mean self-sacrifice and total devotion to his class, people, and comrades.

Those who carry out the revolution should have warm hearts, together with a principle, and should always demonstrate lofty humanity in work and in life. The revolutionaries are boundlessly passionate and devotional toward their comrades but they never love comrades blindly. The duty and comradeship existing among them have nothing to do with any humaneness which is contradictory to the principle of the revolution and the interest of the working class.

The revolutionaries are those who clearly distinguish between public and personal matters and who do not know any compromise and concession before the revolutionary principle. Such revolutionary love is to be displayed in timely awakening and helping comrades so that they do not secede from the path of struggle even slightly and do not act running counter to the principle.

In this course, the revolutionaries help each other consolidate their ideologies and will and correct each other's errors, thus fighting together as permanent companions on the path of upholding the leader of the revolution.

The revolutionaries conduct revolutionary cultivation through organizational life and unite themselves with monolithic ideological relation. Maintaining blood ties with the leader, the center of social and political organism, and cherishing an everlasting political life can be realized only when the revolutionaries become the members of party organizations and social and political organizations led by the party.

The party is the backbone of social and political organism and is the kernel unit of the popular masses who are united with one another and who share the same will with the leader. Without the organizational life of the party, one cannot think and act according to the ideas and will of the party and the leader nor can he highly demonstrate the revolutionary duty and comradeship.

All functionaries and party members should constantly conduct ideological and spiritual cultivation through the party's organizational life and should more highly demonstrate the revolutionary duty and comradeship. The fine custom of revolutionary duty and comradeship created during the period of anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the respected leader Comrade Kim il-song is a vivid example which we should follow.

The leader of the revolution believes in and loves the fighters and the fighters endlessly trust the leader. The revolutionary duty and comradeship that attained the unity based on such relations are the model of genuine comradeship which would not be destroyed even amid fierce storms and which would not change no matter how many times the trails may repeat and no matter how long the time may pass.

It is a fine traditional custom on comradeship which the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters handed over to us to share the will and destiny with the leader under any circumstances and to advance the revolutionary road to the end only amid the warm love of comrades.

Following such a fine custom on comradeship by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, we should glorify our political lives on the path of upholding the party and leader by more deeply cherishing the loyalty to the party and leader and should more firmly prepare ourselves to be the chuche-type communist revolutionaries.

The entire history of the Korean communist movement was a glorious course which was pioneered by the unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship and which vigorously advanced our revolution with the indomitable might.

Today the chuche revolutionary cause is being brilliantly inherited and perfected because the tradition of such a great unity is being firmly inherited. The road we should advance is still far and the future of our revolution is still arduous and rugged. However, we are overflowing with optimism and confidence and have a firm conviction in the future of the Korean revolution.

The most refined and great leader of the people is standing at the van of our revolution and our glorious party is cultivating the road of revolution. There is also the indomitable unity of our revolutionary ranks which are united with the party and leader based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship. Long historic experiences show how noble it is to have the true revolutionary comrades who have the lofty will and integrity to share the destiny in the revolutionary struggle and show that when there is comradely unity obtained through blood, there is nothing in the world that we cannot achieve.

Today there are several thousand and tens of thousands of Kim Hyoks and Cha Kwang-sus—indomitable revolutionary fighters who will entrust the great leader with their destinies and share the fate with him—in our revolutionary ranks. Because there are such a great unity and cohesion with the party and leader based on the revolutionary duty and comradeship, our revolutionary cause is indomitable and the future of our revolution is endlessly bright.

South Korea

No Tae-u 21 April News Conference
SK210838 Seoul Television Service in Korean
0100 GMT 21 Apr 88

[News conference given by President No Tae-u for local correspondents on 21 April at Chongwadae Guesthouse—recorded]

[Text] [No Tae-u] I am not sure if the Chongwadae Guesthouse, which is used for receiving guests from home and abroad, is an appropriate place to hold a news conference; however, it is the grandest building in Chongwadae, and also since there is no other suitable place, I hope you will understand.

Almost 2 months have passed since you, the people, sent me, No Tae-u, to Chongwadae. Taking to my heart my promises to the people that I will do my best in handling state affairs and a sense of duty that I must make ours a country where people live well equally, I, as a president chosen directly by the people, have spent the last 50

days, busily making plans to fulfill my promises and duty. Above all, I have promised to all people that I will be a president who realizes a true democracy.

Less than 2 months have passed since the new government took office. However, a rule with force and suppression has disappeared and the freedoms, including the freedom of the press, and autonomy are expanding. This is truly a pleasant thing.

We are marking the 40th anniversary of constitutional politics. Last year, we held a presidential election after overcoming a truly serious crisis with the people's matured sense of democracy and their wisdom. Dictatorship and a dispute over the legitimacy that have continued for 40 years were wiped out when the new government took office. The world's view of us has greatly changed and the prospects of a democratic Korea have become unanimously bright.

I have proposed the creation of the great era of ordinary people. The era of ordinary people is an era that all conscientious people of all walks of life—ordinary people—participate in and create. I believe that an era in which all ordinary people willingly join forces to build a wonderful country amid freedom and autonomy is an era greater than any other era. This is also an era of great democracy which all of us hope for. In a society where people become masters because privileges and authoritarianism are wiped out, the dignity of the people can be guaranteed and the fruits of growth can be more justly distributed. In a society where people can each enjoy dignity without being suppressed and where they can get the fruits of their sincere labor, they will faithfully and fruitfully work hard by doing their best. With the vitality of such a democratic society, we must fulfill the national dream of becoming an advanced state, first in the world among former colonial countries.

This is not a matter for the distant future. All of us must successfully hold this fall's Seoul Olympics, where all of the world will gather. The vitality of democracy, which is entering its early stages, must be turned into creative power, thus accelerating our development. I firmly believe that Korea in the 21st century will be a dignified advanced state that will lead the era of prosperity in the Pacific [region]. National power which will grow with the participation of all people will consequently pave the road toward peaceful reunification.

I am convinced that in 4 or 5 years, during my tenure, an opportunity will arise for making epochal progress in North-South relations. I hope that I will become a president who will open a new chapter in North-South relations and provide a foundation for national unification.

I believe that our old proverb—Only when the water above is clean can the water below be clean—holds true for any society. I am planning to provide a root of trust

between the people and government by strictly controlling myself and those around me and realizing a clean government. I will make all efforts to be remembered as a sincere and honest president.

I always think about how much I should revere the people and how solemn history is.

Amid a very busy schedule after I took office and after the inauguration of the government, I am still in the process of grasping the operations of the central and local government offices.

Anyway, I will answer your questions.

[Reporter Kwon Ki-chin] I am reporter Kwon Ki-chin of the SEOUL SINMUN. First, I would like to express our gratitude for your presence at this press conference although you are busy, as you have mentioned.

We hope that you, as the president chosen by the people, will be present more frequently at press conferences whenever there is an issue the people are interested in.

Now, I will ask the first question.

As the National Assembly election campaign reaches its final stage, all kinds of illegal acts of corruption and violence are being committed across the country, thus extremely dimming the election atmosphere. The government has stated that these kinds of illegal acts would be heavily punished; however, it seems that this time, too, candidates and people do not want to believe in such a law-abiding will of the government, maybe because similar policies had normally been nothing but a flash in the pan in the past.

Under these circumstances, would you please tell us about the government's stand toward the general elections to be held this time and about the measure for fair elections?

[No Tae-u] It is my firm will to develop democracy and politics through the culture of elections. Nevertheless, as reporter Kwon Ki-chin has just pointed out, along with the people, I cannot but worry about the phenomena of corruption and violence and the overheated phenomena in the ongoing election campaigns.

I repeatedly tell our DJP and stress to it that I hope that, in these elections too, it will participate with the same mind which it had at the time of the last presidential election, in other words, with a mind that embodies the 29 June spirit.

I repeatedly stress that we should not dim the atmosphere of fair elections, even if we will not obtain the majority of the National Assembly seats.

Should the ruling or opposition camps go to extremes, violate the law, and destroy democratic order, I think this should be heavily punished in the name of the people and according to the law. I think this should be judged by the people and by law, even after someone is elected.

As you know, I think the days are gone of a state of elections in which the people are looked down upon. I think this was proved during the last presidential election as well. As you know, the public power was crumbled because of the state of violence in some areas. How did the people accept that at the time? I firmly believe that the last presidential election proved that the people never forgive violence which looks down on the people.

Thus, I, as president, would like to take this opportunity to express my will that such violence against democratic order of law should be dealt with severely, regardless of its form.

The government will do its best and will lead the elections this time to an atmosphere of fair elections.

Next question, please.

[Reporter Yun Chong-pu] I am reporter Yun Chong-pu of Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. Mr. President, out of the 224 electoral districts, how many National Assembly seats do you think the DJP will obtain? And, should the DJP fail to secure the majority of National Assembly seats, how will you handle the future political situation and seek stability in government operations?

[No] As you know, according to the revised Constitution, the president's authority has been drastically reduced. The authority to declare a state of emergency has been eliminated. The authority to dissolve the National Assembly has also been eliminated. On the contrary, the National Assembly's checking function has been reinforced to a great extent. In addition to the authority to investigate government operations, the authority to inspect and audit government operations also has been recovered. Thus, the National Assembly function has drastically increased.

Accordingly, a force of stability is definitely necessary to make the president chosen by you, by the people, seek democratic politics with conviction. This, I think, is absolutely necessary to carry out government operations with conviction.

If it can be done as I wish, I think we should obtain the majority of seats. But, after all, this is to be decided by the people. Thus, I expect a wise judgment of the people.

Next question, please.

[Reporter Yi Ui-chung] I am reporter Yi Ui-chung from HANGUK ILBO. I remember that when you, as chairman of the DJP, accepted the opposition camp's demand

for adopting a direct presidential election system through the 29 June declaration last year, you said your firm conviction was the parliamentary cabinet system. Is this firm conviction of yours still viable? At the same time, some opposition figures have indicated that if the DJP secures a stable majority of seats in the upcoming general elections, it will attempt to revise the present new Constitution again for the parliamentary cabinet system as adopted in the DJP Constitution. Do you have any idea about revising the Constitution for the parliamentary cabinet system during your term of office?

[No] As you know, the present Constitution was, for the first time in our history, made with an agreement between the ruling and opposition parties and under the consent of the people. Indeed, it was made through arduous efforts. Even now, the National Assembly under this new Constitution has not yet been formed. Such being the case, I think that talking about constitutional revision is nothing but a strategy for the upcoming general elections. I think that from now on we should no longer talk about constitutional revision.

I have also told you that securing a stable majority of seats in the upcoming general elections is another difficult problem. Furthermore, do you think that the DJP can secure an absolute majority of seats, enough for a constitutional revision, namely, two-thirds of the total seats? Rather, I would like to ask you about this. In a nutshell, talking about constitutional revision is nothing but a strategy for the general elections. I no longer want to talk about constitutional revision.

[Reporter Yi Sang-chol] I am reporter Yi Sang-chol from CHOSON ILBO. With the revelation of the scandal of the Saemaul Movement headquarters, the people's unanimous surprise and anger are growing. Even now, when Mr Chon Kyong-hwan is under detention, the people's suspicions of the scandal are still growing along with the rumors that he has converted his illegally amassed property overseas. In particular, believing that this scandal was perpetrated with Chongwadae in the background, the people are now keenly watching what attitude the present government will assume toward former President Chon Tu-hwan, his wife, and his relatives, including Yi Kyu-tong, Yi Kyu-kwang, Yi Chang-sok, and Chon Ki-hwan who in the past gave rise to stronger public criticism than the current Saemaul scandal. Do you have any thoughts of clearing and dispelling the people's suspicions by thoroughly probing into this problem?

[No] You probably remember the promises I have made before you on many occasions in the past. In other words, one of the promises was that there will be no inviolable area in ferreting out illegality and irregularities. I think you know this is a great direction of my future politics for the people and that it is my firm will. I think you also know well the purpose of the action that

I am taking now. My firm conviction is that all illegality and irregularities, whoever commits them, should be dealt with according to laws.

As you know well, the judicial authorities concerned are investigating the Saemaul scandal independently and without receiving any outside influence or interference. I think it is natural that any crime, when clear evidence of it is found, should be brought to the justice of laws. Let me emphasize again that there will be no exception to this.

However, we should know and keep in mind here that such a tendency for creating social distrust and uneasiness with groundless rumors having no clear evidence or with groundless and false reports is not desirable. I once again emphasize that all crimes should be dealt with under the principles of legalism and evidence and according to law.

I want to stress again that no one can be an exception to this case. However, we must remember that the vicious groundless rumors which cause social distrust and a sense of anxiety are not desirable. Thus, we should handle every case according to laws and orders based on material evidence and principle.

[Reporter Yi Sang-chol] I wish to ask just one more question. Approximately 10 persons who were involved in the Saemaul Movement irregularities have been detained. However, the investigation of high-ranking government officials who were suspected to have approved of, supported, and cooperated with such irregularities has not followed. The opposition parties maintained that those who should be held responsible for this still hold positions in the current government and in the DJP.

Will you tell us if you are ready to order an official investigation of this issue?

[No] Many remarks will be made during the period of election campaign. I also think this is natural. However, what is clear at this point is that the Saemaul Movement should be pushed ahead in the future, too. The achievements made by the Saemaul Movement for the nation and the people are great. I think no one can deny that the Saemaul Movement was the source of the belief that we can eliminate poverty and live well if we try with our best and that we will also be able to rank among the advanced nations.

Thus, the government and public organizations are no different from each other in supporting the Saemaul Movement. It is not appropriate to describe those who supported the Saemaul Movement in order to make it better as being involved in irregularities and corruption.

Those who were involved in the scandal, whether or not they are government officials, will be strictly ruled by the law; and those who supported the development of a pure Saemaul Movement should deservedly receive the praise of the people.

[CHUNGANG ILBO reporter Chon Yuk—identified by caption] The Chon Kyong-hwan scandal incited the people to call the former president and his wife to account, and the achievements of the Fifth Republic are being valued less than what they actually are in various domains from the objective viewpoint. I think this is because from the outset the Fifth Republic exercised public power beyond the comprehension of many people; and, on the contrary, it had not exercised public power when it should have and when it did, it did so in a distorted way.

As a result, although the authorities handled according to law various incidents of large-scale irregularities and corruption that occurred during the period of the Fifth Republic, including the Yi Cuol-Chang Yong-cha incident, the people still have doubts and voices are being raised demanding the reinstatement of government officials who were dismissed when the government [of the Fifth Republic] took office, of enterprises which were readjusted, and of the press which was integrated.

Will you tell us if you are ready to reinvestigate such large-scale incidents of irregularities and corruption or to explain them so that the distrust and suspicion that existed under the former government can be eliminated and so that what should be put in order will be.

[No] It is true that large-scale incidents and scandals occurred in the early stages of the Fifth Republic. As you know, such incidents have already been settled judicially and some are still pending. I also realize that the people still have some doubts. However, if new suspicions are discovered, these will be ruled according to law, without exception. I believe that the judicial authorities will deal with these cases independently.

[Reporter Choe Chu-chol] I am reporter Choe Chu-chol from TONG-A ILBO. Since the Sixth Republic has taken office, it has worked to sever relations with the Fifth Republic while putting forward the catchphrase of eliminating authoritarianism and so forth. Evaluation of this work is affirmative in some aspects and negative in others. The problem has been that before and after the the Sixth Republic came to office, the influence of the Fifth Republic still remained, including in the selection of personnel, and later appeared to be an issue of discord. Some people have viewed this as a struggle between forces and power games.

I wonder if such power games have ended with the resignation of former president Chon Tu-hwan from all public positions.

Please tell us to what extent and for how long the work of severing relations with the Fifth Republic will continue? What is your view on the issues of demoralization and the unity of those who were in the so-called pan-ruling camp formed in many fields of society since the Fifth Republic came to power in case such work continues?

[No] This is indeed a complex question. I would like to refer to the launching of the Sixth Republic as a joint of bamboo. When winter comes while it is growing, a joint forms in the bamboo.

In other words, we should inherit what was done well while courageously eliminating what was wrong. As I remarked before the people many times in the past, our history shows that all governments, including those of the Liberty Party, the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the Fifth Republic, and the Sixth Republic broke off from one another in pieces. This is indeed undesirable.

Thus, I have repeatedly stressed that these exercises had influence on our offspring. Needless to say, the Liberty Party was responsible for many wrongdoings. It collapsed because of corrupt elections. However, it had the spirit of founding the nation and not a few members of this party contributed great achievements to the founding of the nation. Likewise, each party has contributed great achievements to history and the people. They are indeed as beautiful as jade. We should not tear them to pieces, but should link them together.

This applies to relations between the Fifth Republic and the Sixth Republic. From this perspective, I believe that what the Fifth Republic did well for the development of democracy and economic development must be accepted as something valuable and that what it did badly, as you have pointed out, must be boldly wiped out. Therefore, it is impossible to totally repudiate the Fifth Republic.

As was expressed during the last presidential election, the people did not want to deny everything that was done by the Fifth Republic. I believe that the people unanimously wanted was to carry out reform based on stability. Based on this, I carry out politics. Our DJP has nominated a number of new faces as candidates for the Assembly. We have attached importance to their ability and experience. However, some people argue about this, saying that they are men of the old era, key officials of the Fifth Republic, and so forth.

However, it is not right to judge all the people who lived in the old era to be figures of the old era. In fact, many of you played very important roles during the era of the Fifth Republic and did many things during the era of the Democratic-Republican Party. Thus, what is important is the spirit of the time. I would like to regard those who have done many things in the old era as suitable new figures who the people wish to have if they have the new spirit and new ideas.

[Reporter Kim Yong-kon] I am reporter Kim Yong-kon from KYONGHYANG SINMUN. Will you tell us how you are going to operate the Elder Statesmen's Advisory Council for State Affairs whose chairmanship is left vacant with Former President Chon Tu-hwan's resignation?

[No] As this event has occurred suddenly, I believe I need some time to review the issue. I will study it and decide based on views and opinions I collect from many people.

[Reporter Pak Chang-sok] I am reporter Pak Chong-kuk from THE KOREA HERALD. Many stiff questions have been raised. The atmosphere has also been stiff. I also would like to ask you a hard question, about the Kwangju incident. The government has recently announced so-called measures to heal the Kwangju incident. However, those on the spot still demand that another investigation into the true cause of the incident be conducted and that those responsible be located. What is your opinion, Mr President?

[No Tae-u] As you may already know, I have recently visited Kwangju. There I made public my honest feelings to the citizens of Kwangju, the people in South Cholla Province, as well as the entire population. I earnestly appealed to the people there and stated that I will take the lead in restoring the honor of the Kwangju citizens and that their pain must be alleviated. I believe that I have won their sympathy in this regard.

I believe that it is difficult to heal such an enormous tragedy of national proportion at a single stroke. Healing the Kwangju people's wounds can be achieved at an early date only when all the people, including the government and public organizations, do their utmost in a tenacious manner. I also believe that all the people in the country understand that this should be solved as great national reconciliation by fully reflecting what the Committee for Democracy and National Reconciliation [CDNR] has recommended.

[Reporter Choe Kyu-chol of TONG-A ILBO] Let me talk about Kwangju a bit more. You just mentioned the CDNR. In written testimony sent to the CDNR, Yi Hui-song, who was the martial law commander at the time of the Kwangju incident, stated that there had been somewhat excessive suppression. The government's measures for Kwangju have failed to address this.

Judging from the assertions made by the victims of the Kwangju incident and other concerned people there, their call for another investigation is essentially focused on those who took the lead in reform when the Fifth Republic came into being. The question seems to be that they held leadership roles in the Fifth and still do in the Sixth Republic. What do you think of this, Mr President?

[No] As you journalists have written about it, I believe that you are well aware of what the CDNR's recommendations were all about. There have been many heated discussions in the sessions of the CDNR. What the people wanted to speak about poured out in the CDNR discussions. What conclusion has the CDNR reached? Its conclusion was that an investigation into the true

cause of the Kwangju incident and meting out punishment to those responsible for it are not desirable. So, I have accepted this recommendation.

It is my belief, and the belief held by a majority of the people, that this problem should be settled based on these recommendations.

[Reporter Chon Yuk] I am reporter Chon Yuk from CHUNGANG ILBO. I would like to change the subject. Allow me to talk about South-North relations. It may be because of the existence of our opponent, North Korea, which has always attempted to turn our genuine intentions and our will for unification to its advantage, and also because of the precedents of our successive leaders frequently using them in connection with domestic political situations to (bring these situations under control), that the people have less trust in South-North relations and seem to have no acute sense about them, even though they have great significance. You have just mentioned them and you also referred to them in your inaugural speech, stating that within 4 to 5 years there will come a decisive turning point for unification. Do you have some grounds for saying so? Has there been any progress or some new contacts in the South-North relations? Please be specific on this.

[No Tae-u] The people may have many questions. Although we have made tenacious efforts for dialogue between the South and the North, even after the particularly horrible KAL incident, they might think that all this has come to an end.

Let me assure them: Despite that horrible incident, with the thought that more serious, more unfortunate incidents must not take place, we are continuously holding dialogue with the North side through various channels. This we do because there must be no more tragedies, as I have told you before.

Also, as you may know, is not the situation around us rapidly changing with the approach of the Olympics? This being the case, I believe that North Korea will also inevitably be changed from within accordingly. This is why I have declared my term of office an era for opening peaceful unification through South-North cooperation.

Up until now, the North side has not given up its line of unifying the country by communizing the South by military force. I believe that the Olympics will serve as an opportunity for the North side to give up such a line. When the North shows a shift in its line, that it will not try to unify the country by communizing the South with military force, then we will boldly liquidate the state of confrontation between the two sides and establish productive relations based on trust between the two sides. To date, many people have been negative about the word unification. Their negative way of thinking will have to be changed to the affirmative in the near future. In this way, a period of earnest preparations for unification will come along.

There can be many ways. However, I believe that among them, the most effective way is to resolve this problem through summit talks between responsible persons of the North and the South.

[Reporter Kim Hak-kyong] I am THE KOREA HERALD reporter Kim Hak-kyong. Relations with the communist bloc have greatly improved. Would you tell us about the current situation of northward diplomacy and its prospects. Also, do you have any plans for overseas trips to Japan, the United States, or any other country for summit diplomacy?

[No] We are newly advocating northward diplomacy. Maintaining regional peace is very important. We are persistently making efforts to contribute to stability and peace in the Pacific rim area. Moreover, we are also making efforts to seek peace and progress in Northeast Asia, along with the Pacific rim area. Not just the government, but also the private sector is earnestly making such efforts. I believe that we are persistently and vigorously carrying out northward diplomacy and regional diplomacy with the ultimate goal of North-South unification. Therefore, I believe, as I said before, that the Olympics will be an opportunity for a new dimension in diplomacy. Using this opportunity, we have already undertaken massive exchanges in the economic and cultural sectors and other sectors, not to mention the sports sector. As you know, our exchanges with the East European bloc have almost become official. I believe that in this way, our international relations with the East European bloc has been vigorously and positively improved and expanded. However, I would like to say one thing at this point: Revealing specific details about this here and now would present difficulties for effectively carrying out our diplomacy as we wish. I hope all of you, journalists, understand that there are such difficulties on both sides. Thank you. Would you ask another question?

[Reporter O Chol-ho] I am YONHAP reporter O Chol-ho. You, Mr President, promised to put yourself to a popular mid-term evaluation after the Olympics on your implementation of the 29 June declaration and campaign promises. In connection with this, opposition parties have claimed that you will put yourself to a vote of confidence not through referendum, but through a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. Would you tell us whether you will put yourself to a mid-term evaluation as planned? If so, would you specifically tell us whether you will put yourself to a vote of confidence as the president of the regime or put yourself to an evaluation of your policies, and when you will do so?

[No] There are various methods for such an evaluation. I am examining various methods. Since the 29 June declaration, I have always expressed my intent. Is it basic to democracy to follow the people's will? As for me, this is the very spirit of the 29 June declaration. Based upon

this foundation, I promise to put myself to a truthful popular evaluation no matter what method may be chosen. Would you please ask another question?

[Munhwa Broadcasting Network reporter Yun Chong-po] Even though political parties in our country—the ruling party, in particular—have so far stated that they advocate democratization in party operations, on many occasions, they have been operated by the charisma of the party presidents. For example, successors have not been raised within the party, but rather unilaterally nominated by the party presidents. In some instances, personages who have advocated views different from those of the party leadership or who have demanded practical democratization within the party have been immediately alienated from party operations or had their political careers ended. I believe the DJP is no exception in this matter. Would you tell us how you will groom your successor and what you think of intraparty democratization and factionalism?

[No] Things will probably be different for me. You say successor. Please stop using that word. As I pointed out long ago, it is my concept that there is no successor. There can be a candidate. A candidate will emerge and be chosen in the DJP at the people's will and the party members' will. I will also talk about factions or middle-level bosses. A good example of the characteristics of democracy is that there are various and diversified voices. I believe that there must be various voices in the party. People may form groups according to their political views, lines, and policies. I believe that if we suppress this, branding it factionalism or something else, democracy is suppressed. Therefore, I am determined to encourage this. However, as you well know, because of political reality and the level of politics of our country, the practice of forming groups around specific people has had more disadvantages, including the promotion of regional sentiment, than advantages in correctly developing our politics. I believe that we must take precautions against this and refrain from it.

[KYONGYANG SINMUN reporter Kim Yong-on] I would like to put forward a question on local autonomy. The ruling and opposition parties originally agreed to hold local assembly elections before May. However, considering the present political timetable, this now looks to be very difficult. Mr President, do you think it would be possible to hold local assembly elections prior to the Olympics?

[No] Doing so was originally my desire and, I believe, the people's wish. However, I am concerned that discrepancies may be inevitable due to the political schedule. If the National Assembly elections had been held in February, as was originally scheduled, it would not have been very difficult to hold local assembly elections in April or May. However, the National Assembly has not yet been formed. Therefore, I believe it very difficult for me to judge the issue here on this occasion. I believe that the

ruling and opposition parties will set an appropriate schedule through mutual agreement, when the new National Assembly is formed.

Next question, please.

[Reporter Yi Yong-il] I am reporter Yi Yong-il of the Korea Broadcasting System. My question is about commodity prices. At present, commodity prices have reportedly increased by about 7 or 8 percent since last April. Also, this month the workers' voices demanding pay raises are growing louder and louder and the scale of currency circulation is drastically expanding for political reasons such as the elections. Housewives say that they can buy practically nothing with 10,000 won at the market, and that commodity prices actually seem to have increased by 30 to 40 percent. Thus, housewives and workers are now deeply concerned about commodity prices. At the same time, there is strong opinion that workers are paying too much in taxes. Would you please tell us about your prescription for commodity prices and explain the new government's economic destination?

[No] I feel very deeply the people's concern about commodity prices. I consider this to be a result of the surplus in our country's international balance of payments and the increase in the price of farm products. However, we should not be pessimistic, because, unlike in a deficit-stricken economy, we can bring commodity prices under control in a surplus-earning economy. This is my will and a conclusion derived from many consultations with experts. For instance, if commodity prices rise due to an insufficient supply of goods when we earn a surplus in the international balance of payments and when the rate of savings is high, we can curb the rise of commodity prices by supplying domestically available goods at low prices or by importing more foreign products. It is very difficult to control commodity prices during an era of economic deficits, but it is not difficult during an era of surplus. This is the opinion of experts. Thus, if the supply is not enough in any products, we can increase their import a little bit and stabilize their prices. During the Fifth Republic, the government's will was very strong concerning commodity prices. It succeeded in controlling commodity prices. On this occasion, I tell my fellow countrymen that our Sixth Republic also has a strong will for stabilizing commodity prices. At the same time, fortunately, the international prices of raw materials are also being stabilized. Thus, I believe we need not be seriously concerned about this.

However, there is one thing against which the government and people should jointly struggle—the rising price of homes and real estate. This is very important. The government's stand, as pledged during the last election, is that the supply of homes and lots should be expanded, and the rise in real estate prices must never be allowed. We will revise the tax system against those who earn money through real estate speculation. If we probe thoroughly, even by revising the tax system, and establish a firm mechanism to block easy money-making, I

believe we can curb commodity prices. As I have already mentioned, I stress that we need the people's cooperation, along with the government's will.

As for the destination of the Sixth Republic's economic policy, as you know, now is the era of economic surplus, the era of high savings. If this trend continues, our per capita income can reach \$10,000 within 10 years. This is no illusionary figure. I believe we should advance toward this goal with ambition, hope, and will. Thus, if the present prosperity continues, our income can be doubled even within my tenure, as I have promised. Our present income stands at \$3,000. This can increase to \$5,000 or even \$6,000 during my tenure.

Presently, labor-management disputes continue. Concerning this, we should emphasize first the morality of business enterprises. We will defend and encourage the free enterprise system. However, at the same time, we should stress the morality of business enterprises. I believe our pending task is to enhance the trust in business enterprises of the people and workers.

At the same time, the principle of economic policy should not be changed very often. Consistency is necessary. Of course, I believe that priorities and methods in policy can change according to the era and situation. In other words, we will continue to achieve stabilized growth, maintain the trend of economic surplus, and achieve equilibrium in all industrial sectors. By so doing, we will persistently seek a policy of boldly returning the fruits we have earned with so much to the workers.

At the same time, I promise that bold investments would be made in farming and fishing villages. Already the medical insurance system is starting to be applied to farmers and fishermen. In addition, the social welfare system is also being expanded. I believe we will revise the tax system and reorganize the financial market toward this goal.

I stress again that, while promoting a self-regulating private economy and respecting the principle of the market economy, we will continue to seek liberalization to invite many people's participation, discussion, and conclusions over the course of establishing policy. With regard to this, as you know, we will soon inaugurate an advisory council on adjusting the economic structure under the direct supervision of the president. I urge your great cooperation toward this end.

Next question, please.

[Reporter Ku Pon-ung] I am reporter Ku Pon-ung from Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation. Let me ask you about social problems. Campus problems and labor-management disputes are getting worse nowadays, and serious incidents are taking place in our society. Some people view that such a situation is a sort of obstacle in the course of democratization, in other words, a pain caused by the eruption of the demands of the people who

have been under restrictions thus far. However, some other people are wondering if the government has the ability and conviction to tackle such problems without undermining the social framework of the democratic system. How do you plan to match the free-wheeling yet self-restrained democratization efforts now in progress with a restrictive legal system? How would you satisfy the popular demands of ordinary people in connection with labor-management disputes?

[No] Following the serious labor-management disputes last year, we have similar problems this year again. However, I think that such problems were a sort of process that we had to undergo last year. Considering such problems in this connection, I deem that such problems are, in a sense, a reflection of economic development. Workers have become highly prized laborers and rare commodities in a sense. Therefore, they should be paid more. This is also a reflection of economic development.

Various methods to resolve such problems have been presented. Here, let me emphasize again that management should take bold steps to recycle earned profits to workers and treat them with a truly human touch. On the part of workers, the union movements should be made in the framework of the pertinent laws which have already been rewritten in favor of laborers. The productive labor movement in the spirit of cooperation between labor and management will only be conducive to enhancing interests of labor and management as well. I am optimistic on the future course of labor-management relations.

Let me talk about democratization and social order. You have just expressed concern about the recent chaos in our society. I think that our society is gaining stability in a free and liberalized atmosphere as a whole, although there are some factors causing uneasiness in some corners of our society. I believe that our society today has proven that the logic of force is nothing but a false one.

However, what our people are expressing deep concern about in our course of seeking democracy is the fact that violence is taking place in the course of seeking and developing democracy. Besides this, illegal acts are taking place in many places nowadays. As I mentioned earlier, we have revised the laws that call on us to thoroughly abide by democratic order. These laws were revised with an agreement of the people and under an agreement between the ruling and opposition parties. All laws that run counter to democracy have been rectified. All laws have been enacted under an agreement of the people. Therefore, the government, including myself, will establish social order with firm democratic will. Furthermore, what I can say with firm confidence is that the people elected me as president. It is natural for the president whom you, the people, elected to abide by the laws that you have established. Therefore, I will lead the government to abide by the laws without fail.

[Reporter Pak Won-ung] I am reporter Pak Won-ung from the Korean Broadcasting System. The standardization of the high school educational system is under fire for its side effect of lowering the quality of school education as a whole. Do you have any concrete plan to correct the present high school entrance examination system? Since your inauguration you have emphasized the need for education to foster talented students. Do you have any plan to epochally improve the quality of education for the future of the country?

[No] We are now looking forward to a hopeful 21st century. We have the high self-confidence that in the 21st century our country will become a leading country in the Pacific without fail. Who can do this great job? Only man can do this. History is created by man. Likewise, in the 21st century you will become the center. In particular, our next generations will do so. It is no exaggeration to say that becoming an advanced country depends on education. Therefore, we should steadily correct the education system. We should correct the current policy of standardizing high schools which has tended to create a side effect of lowering the quality of education.

Democracy itself contains diversity. Therefore, education should also contain diversity. Gone are the days when we should adhere to the current standardization of high schools which has tended to create a side effect of lowering the quality of education.

The specific education for the gifted should be expanded by establishing high schools and universities that are exclusively intended for talented students. As I mentioned earlier, in the 21st century we should not simply copy educational systems from other countries but should create our own system suitable to our specific environment.

From this standpoint, I would like to emphasize the importance of science and foreign language education which is a must for internationalization. At the same time, we have to offer quality educational opportunities for those who are unable to attend higher educational institutions to help them secure decent jobs.

As I mentioned earlier, we should not only improve welfare of educators in order to rapidly promote the quality of education, but also expand the opportunities of study and training overseas for educators in order to enhance their knowledge of the world. To this end, we have a big technological center in Hongnung, Seoul and a technological center in Taedok. We will establish a large-scale science research center in Honam [Cholla Province].

[Unidentified reporter] You, Mr President, said that you would disclose your assets. Would you please tell us what assets you have?

[No] Because I promised the people that I would disclose my assets, I soon will. I cannot remember all of my assets. I have a house in Yonhui-dong. You know how big it is. I have paddies and dry paddies in my hometown that were inherited from my ancestors. I cannot remember how big they are. I believe you have a list. I also have some bank stocks and some money in bank accounts because I have led a frugal life. I believe that the total amount will be approximately 500 million won at most. I would like to say something at this point: As president, I will set an example for the people and will make the people around me follow my example. In this way, I again express my resolve to the people that we will make ours a clean officialdom and will eradicate any form of corruption. Journalism has also become active and the National Assembly will become active in the future. I believe that the irregularities of public officials that the people frown upon will be wiped out in the near future. I also expect you to play a role in this.

[HANGUK ILBO reporter Yi Yi-chun] You, Mr President, have already put forward principles on dealing with your relatives. It has been known that these principles have thus far been strictly kept. Would you please tell us how you will manage your relatives. In addition, your daughter's marriage has become a matter of concern. Would you tell us when you will send her off for marriage and how you will raise your son, who is studying in the United States?

[No] Magazines have reported what I have not thought about. I have never even thought of doing as magazines have written I would. Various magazines have carried speculation to arouse their readers' interest. I believe that it is enough for me as president to be spotlighted by the news media. It is the hope of my family and I that our family will lead the sincere family life it did before. I will have my wife appear on public occasions if her appearance is really necessary and will have her do her job as a housewife. It is my hope and my family's to do so.

[YONHAP reporter O Chol-ho] Almost all of the current issues on state affairs have been discussed and much time has passed. I would like to ask one more question before today's press conference is concluded. In asking the final question, I would like to express appreciation to you, Mr President, for having answered our questions in detail, and again express the hope of our press corps for you to hold press conferences like this frequently in the future. The final question is on your life in Chongwadae. What do you think has been the most difficult thing for you since you came Chongwadae?

[No] Being asked difficult questions is a difficult thing. Thank you. It is said that when a president takes office in a foreign country, he is given a honeymoon period of, say, 6 months at least. I expected that you would give me such a period. However, just 50 or so days have passed

since I came to office and I am having a hard time in front of you, the reporters. I am being asked sharp questions. Frankly speaking, being asked these questions is painful for me.

Something else that has been painful is that I said during the election campaigning that I would open a great era of ordinary people. This means that I also will become an ordinary person. At that time, I could go to a public bathhouse, take my clothes off, and take a bath with other people. I could play tennis and jog with other people. Now, it is difficult for me to enjoy such pleasures. I find this very painful.

One more thing that comes to mind is that we are ushering in the Olympics with national self-respect in all areas of politics, the press, the economy, society, and culture, as we wish. Under these circumstances, politicians are busy in election campaigns and I feel shame and agony as I see them smearing, slandering, swearing, and even committing violence against one another, unlike mature politicians.

I truly and sincerely appeal and hope that, when this election is over, this kind of phenomena will disappear in our society and country. I earnestly pray that we will usher in an era in which all compete against one another fairly with visions of doing something for the people in the 21st century.

Thank you for your presence today.

'Too Much Optimism' Expressed

SK220255 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
22 Apr 88 p 2

["News Analysis" column by staff reporter Sim Yong-su: "No Exudes Optimism Over East Bloc Relations; Reasserts Commitment to Democratic Reforms"]

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday gave so "rosy picture" of internal and external development that his critics quickly dismissed them as "too good to believe."

Extending his vision beyond his single five-year term till 1992, No said, Korea will become a leading power in the Pacific area by the turn of the century.

By the time, the President said, the Koreans' per-capita income will hit \$10,000 mark within a decade, from current \$3,000.

In giving the prediction, critics said that No must have, though some prematurely, put into his consideration that Korea's won will continue to appreciate against the U.S. dollars.

For the first three months of this year, won's value jumped over seven percent against the U.S. dollar to frustration of none but some government officials who liked to play games with figures.

Another remarkable part of his 80-minute news conference televised nation-wide from 10 a.m. was No's optimism for reunification of the peninsula—a long, ardent dream for entire Koreans.

Rekindling the passion for territorial reunion, No said, "A time will soon come for the two divided Koreas to seriously discuss the matter."

The Seoul Olympics will provide a turning point for the militant northern brothers to reconsider its avowed policy of communizing the southern part by force.

Then showing his willingness "to bury old hatchets," he offered a summit meeting between top-level authorities of the two Koreas at an early date to mend fences.

Despite Pyongyang's bombing of a KAL flight last November over the Andaman Sea near Burma, the President said that the government has continued its effort to reopen dialogue with the North.

In another show of good will toward the north, No said, "It (the bombing in which 115 people were killed) was horrible. But our endeavor to talk with them is simply to avoid a repetition of such a tragedy."

Korea's improving relations with the East-bloc nations, mostly allies of Pyongyang, will also help create a favorable environment for the two Koreas to discuss detente, ending an era of confrontation, No said.

For the first time, No admitted publicly that Korea actively exchanged with China, in sports, culture and trade.

Similar exchanges were developing between Korea and Pyongyang's East-bloc allies such as Hungary, Yugoslavia and Poland, he said.

But No refused to give more details into such exchanges, saying that publicity will never help promote such still budding relations.

In domestic front, such as commodity prices and politics, No showed unprecedentedly strong confidence.

"Commodity prices show signs of stabilizing, democratic reform campaigns are on the right track and labor conflicts will be solved without much trouble," No said.

Particularly about the democratic reforms, he displayed his firm commitment and confidence, dismissing rising labor problems as a minor by-product of democratization.

Extending a word of encouragement to the laborers, No said that they should fight to win their due shares through legal methods, such as strikes.

It marked the first remarks by the President who recognizes the workers' legal right to strike, a practice which had long been rejected by employers as "an impure culture imported from the West."

Serving a warning to employers at the same time, the President said, "You should honestly return profits to your employees and give them humanitarian treatment to them. It is the only solution."

Although he seemed to frankly answer reporters' unprecedentedly hard questions, No appeared to sidestep several prickly inquiries such as those about the Saemaul scandals and the Kwangju incidents.

Asked if he will order investigations into the allegation about the key scandals of the Fifth Republic involving former First Families, No said he repeated his election pledge: "There will be no sanctuary for his drive to eradicate irregularities and corruption."

Then he quickly added that any criminals will stand at trials only when there were solid evidences.

There were rumors that for former President Chon Tu-hwan and his brother Kyong-hwan, now in prison for the Saemaul Undong scandal, amassed a huge amount of property abroad, particularly in Australia and the United States.

"But you should remember here, that it is not desirable that groundless rumors cause social distrust and unrest," No said in a remark largely targetted at opposition politicians.

Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam have led an opposition camp to demand officials probe into the allegations against the Chon families.

In defining his government's relation with the former President Chon's one, No denied recent reports that he was trying to sever its ties with the Chon era.

Comparing their relations to the knots of a bamboo tree, No said that it is not desirable that a history of a nation should be severed for any reason.

Smiling No derisively said, "some of you (newsreporters) have played a great role in the Fifth Republic and in the (late President Pak's) Republican Democratic Party government."

As for the 1980 Kwangju incident, widely dubbed as the biggest national tragedy since the Korean War, No made it clear that there will be no fact-finding and punishment of those responsible.

"The Council for Democracy and National Reconciliation [CDNR] recommended me a set of proposals to resolve it, and it should be respected as a consensus of the entire people, No said.

Opposition have questioned the legitimacy of the CDNR, claiming that most of the members were hand-picked by No and his aides.

Toward the end of the news conference, No, responding to a question, revealed his personal assets which is believed to be a gesture to boost his "ordinary president" image and his "clean, honest" government image.

Apart from the content of the press conference, No seemed to have won a big political scoop through the way he spoke in a humble, frank manner.

A foreigner who watched his press conference on television said, "He (No) was a great communicator. He showed that he is a President."

Opposition Parties Criticize

SK220237 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Opposition parties criticized President No Tae-u yesterday for having evaded showing his clear intention about constitutional amendment and a vote of confidence he had promised.

Two major opposition parties declared that President No Tae-u bared his true intention to seek the revision of the current Constitution to introduce the parliamentary cabinet system by refusing to give a clear-cut denial.

RDP spokesman Kim Tok-yong commented, "President No's obscure stance on the parliamentary cabinet system and a vote of confidence after the Olympics revealed his attempt to gloss over the two important matters.

"It just deepened popular suspicion of the DJP's plot to revise the basic law during his term of office," the RDP spokesman said.

Kim went on, "It is dishonest for President No not to have clarified his position with regard to the Saemaul scandal."

Kim also said that President No's attitude on the Kwangju Uprising and the massive corruption scandals proved that the incumbent regime is nothing but the extension of the Fifth Republic government.

Acting RDP president Kim Myong-yun criticized the President for ascribing the rising inflation to the increase of agricultural products prices though in fact it resulted from the release of the exorbitant amount of election funds.

The Party for Peace and Democracy said that President No showed his clear intention to evade a fundamental solution to the problem of Kwangju by refusing to investigate the tragic event and punishing those responsible.

Kim Kyong-chae, PPD election campaign headquarters spokesman, said the Chief Executive revealed his willingness to amend the current constitution to introduce the parliamentary form of government by securing more than two-thirds of the 13th National Assembly seats.

The PPD noted that No did not clearly come to the defense of the current Constitution allowing for the direct election of the President in a tacit commitment to the revision of the current basic law.

The PPD also criticized President No for "showing a lukewarm attitude" on digging up irregularities and corruption in the Fifth Republic, including the Saemaul scandal.

Kim said the No government is just the extension of the dictatorial military-backed regime of the Fifth Republic, adding that the Sixth Republic has the same root as the past administration.

Spokesman Kim also said that President No virtually scrapped his presidential election commitment to put the peoples confidence in him to a vote after the Seoul Olympics.

The PPD called on President No to abolish the controversial advisory Council of Elder Statesmen immediately.

President No has not yet accepted the resignation of former president Chon Tu-hwan as the ACES chairman formally.

The New Democratic Republican Party said that President No failed to sketch his political philosophy and blueprint for the administration of state affairs in the press conference yesterday.

It said that No evaded core and fundamental issues while repeating principles in the manner of reading from a school textbook.

It also commented that the Chief Executive did not demonstrate any clear-cut commitment to settling the 1980 bloody Kwangju turmoil in a fundamental manner and to guaranteeing the fairness of the forthcoming election.

YONHAP Says DJP Leads in 77 Districts

SK220336 Seoul YONHAP in English
0302 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—Government party candidates have commanding leads in 77 of the 224 electoral districts across the nation with general elections only four days away, political observers said Friday.

According to an interim analysis on campaign performances and trends among voters in each district, the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party has a

comfortable lead in 38 districts, compared with 30 for the Party for Peace and Democracy and 13 for the New Democratic Republican Party.

The analysis also indicated that identifying leading candidates or possible outcomes in one-fourth of the total electoral districts is difficult as the candidates are engaged in such tight contests.

Of the 62 districts engaged in such neck-and-neck races, the ruling Democratic Justice Party is estimated to have a slight lead in 20 districts. The RDP, on the other hand, is said to have a narrow lead in 10 districts while the PPD, led by Kim Tae-chung, is seen as holding a slight lead in 17 districts.

The analysts said that predicting winners in about half of the 42 seats at stake in the Seoul metropolitan area is also difficult because of a large number of uncommitted voters.

Some say that the outcome of the upcoming parliamentary elections will almost certainly resemble that of the presidential election last December, as the three major opposition parties are not expected to obtain nationwide support with their power bases limited to various provincial regions.

According to the observers, the Reunification Democratic Party, led by Kim Yong-sam, is expected to sweep at least 10 of the 25 districts in Pusan, his traditional stronghold.

The PPD, competing with the RDP to emerge as the main opposition force in the new parliament, has a convincing lead in more than 25 of the 37 districts in North and South Cholla provinces in the western part of the nation. Those two provinces overwhelmingly supported Kim Tae-chung in the presidential election last year.

The minor opposition NDRP, headed by Kim Chong-pil, is also expected to do well in its political stronghold in South Chungchong province located in the nation's central region.

Analysts pointed to a change in the campaigning away from an earlier trend focusing on individual candidates, which resulted in part from a failure to reunify the opposition camps before the elections, toward an appeal for regionalism characterized by the leaders of the three main opposition parties known as the three Kims.

Political experts, relying on the analysis, predict that the DJP will win a combined total of 160 seats including 120 seats in the direct voting. The April 26 elections are the first general elections in 17 years to use the one-representative-per-district system. Under revised election

laws, 224 seats will be subject to a popular vote while the remaining 75 seats will be distributed proportionally as a bonus among parties winning more than five seats in the popular vote.

The prediction holds that the RDP will emerge as the leading opposition force with a total of 57 seats, including 42 seats in the popular vote, followed by the PPD with 50 seats and the NDRP with 22 seats.

As the campaigning moves closer to election day, the ruling and opposition parties are expected to launch all-out efforts, including illegal steps, to win the support of uncommitted voters, who could have a decisive impact on the election outcome.

The 18-day campaign period, which began on April 8, has already been plagued by violence, disorder, slander and other irregularities. Eleven people were arrested Wednesday in connection with the seizure of DJP supporters by opposition supporters. The total number of people arrested because of election violence and illegal campaign activities is estimated at more than 30 as of Thursday, police said.

President No Tae-u pledged Thursday in a news conference, his first since his inauguration on Feb. 25, to crack down on election violence and disorderly acts. He also stressed fair election management.

The aftermath of the upcoming general elections, according to political observers, could have a serious impact on post-election political situations and the operation of the new National Assembly.

Parties Direct Attention to Undecided Voters
SK210225 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] With only five days left until the parliamentary elections, ruling and opposition parties have been directing their partisan efforts at winning still undecided eligible voters.

Based on the interim evaluation of the results of the two-week electioneering campaigns, the rival parties are of the view that so-called "floating voters" still account for nearly 40 percent of the total electorate.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) and three major opposition parties yesterday began intensifying publicity campaigns and solidarity gatherings in a bid to mop up the undecided votes and gain the upper hand in the last stage of electioneering period.

Top leaders of the rival parties held separate press conferences, trading verbal accusations in an attempt to discredit the rival camps while passing the buck for violence and illicit electioneering to the other parties.

The election fervor is certainly expected to reach its climax over this weekend when the rival parties will hold mass rallies in major cities which are sure to exert formidable influence upon the result of the April 26 general elections.

Rep. Chae Mun-sik, chairman of the ruling DJP, stressed the need for the government party to secure a majority of seats in the new Assembly.

Chae, who has just returned from a stumping tour to support his party's parliamentary candidates, said that the coming elections will be an important opportunity to determine the future of the country.

"We are now standing at a crossroads that will determine whether or not we will be able to fully achieve the democratic reforms, initiated by President No Tae-u's June 29 declaration," Chae said.

Chae, voicing deep concern about the prevailing illicit mass rallies held by opposition groups and violences at stumping sites, proposed to the opposition parties a meeting of secretaries general to discuss the prevention of illicit electioneering.

Kim Yong-sam, actual leader of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), in a press conference in Taegu, called for the immediate stoppage of administrative intervention in the electioneering in favor of the DJP.

Kim, former president of the RDP and runner-up in the presidential election, stressed that President No and DJP's chairman Chae must "openly withdraw" instructions they handed down to the heads of administrative organs, seeking their cooperation in the elections.

He also asked President No to investigate former president Chon Tu-hwan, his wife Yi Sun-cha, and their relatives in connection with their alleged illegal accumulation of wealth and other misdeeds.

In a five-point query directed to President No, Kim called upon President No to make public his individual property.

Kim then asked No if he will translate into action pledges he has made with regard to the functions of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) and the Defense Security Command so that the two major intelligence organs will devote themselves to their original counter-intelligence business.

Kim Tae-chung, de facto leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said that President No is scheming to secure more than two thirds of the total parliamentary seats in order to evade his earlier pledge of a confidence vote after the Olympics.

If President No wins an overwhelming victory in the coming parliamentary elections, he will not hold the promised confidence vote using the result of general elections as an excuse, Kim went on.

Kim made remarks to that effect in rallies held separately at eight places in the provinces of Chollanam-do and Chollapuk-do.

Kim Chong-pil of the minor opposition New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP), now on a stumping tour in Chungchongnam-do, said that his party will exert efforts to repeal the controversial Advisory Council of Elder Statesmen and monthly neighborhood meetings ("yan-sang-hoe").

Meeting with reporters in Puyo, the NDRP leader also pledged that his party will take the lead in abrogating all "undemocratic" laws and improving various systems for the protection of human rights.

Major Parties Fuel Regionalism in Campaign
SK220335 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] Attempts by parliamentary candidates to incite regional antagonisms are flaring up again in the on-going campaign for the parliamentary elections, in a continuation of developments seen during the December presidential poll.

Candidates of three major opposition parties led by the "three Kims" are competitively resorting to the regional sentiments of the electorate in desperate efforts to sweep in their respective strongholds.

The phenomenon is particularly marked among the candidates of the Reunification Democratic Party and its opposition rival Party for Peace and Democracy.

The RDP and the PPD led by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung respectively are struggling against each other to secure the status of the major opposition party through the upcoming general elections.

The two presidential runners-up are making rounds of visits to their respective home provinces to assist the candidates of their parties.

The other Kim (Chong-pil), leader of the New Democratic Republican Party, is also busy visiting the districts of Chongchong province, though he refrains from making outspoken remarks acerbating regional antagonism.

President No Tae-u, who also heads the ruling party, and its chairman Chae Mun-sik, for their part, appeal to the electorate in Taegu and nearby Kyongsangpuk-do, home province of the President, to give the government party state seats in the Assembly.

Kim Yong-sam said during a rally in Pusan last week, "Pusan citizens should commit suicide by disembowelment if they elect parliamentary candidates of the ruling party in the upcoming general elections," appealing to the electorate of his home city to vote for the RDP candidates.

Kim Tae-chung of the PPD described the DJP as a "regime of military warlords discriminating against the Cholla people."

"The PPD and Kim Tae-chung will survive only when all the PPD candidates are elected in the 37 districts of Kwangju and the Cholla province," the former PPD president said during his visit to Kwangju recently.

"Even though you don't like a PPD candidate personally, vote for him for the sake of myself, and if you don't like me, vote for home for the sake of the Cholla province," Kim said.

DJP chairman Chae Mun-sik called upon the electorate of Taegu and Kyongsangbuk-do province to give overwhelming support for the DJP candidates, by saying, "The three Kims are securing votes for the candidates of the parties in their respective political strongholds.

"Therefore, we don't have to elect the opposition candidates here, as the Assembly seats to be secured by the three parties will be enough to check the DJP," the DJP chairman told the Taegu citizens.

A DJP candidate in Taegu warned against a possible political crisis "in case the DJP fails to secure the majority of Assembly seats."

A PPD candidate in a district of Chollanam-do told the electorate of his district, "The Cholla people should kill themselves by falling into the West Sea if they refuse to elect the PPD candidates."

Opposition Leaders Appeal for People's Support
SK220235 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
22 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Three opposition leaders yesterday appealed for popular support for their parties in next Tuesday's general elections, warning that the ruling party is plotting to prolong its stay in power.

They also charged that the ruling Democratic Justice Party lavishly spent money and abused administrative power in violation of election laws.

Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-tae made the allegations at their separate news conferences and campaign rallies yesterday.

At a rally in Milyang near Pusan, Kim Yong-sam claimed that the DJP set the coming general elections as the start of its conspiracy to extend its rule.

The former leader of the Reunification Democratic Party charged that the ruling party rampantly issued election promises which it knew it cannot keep.

Describing the ruling party as a "group of politically tainted military personnel," he said he will closely watch their "dirty political tricks."

"Unless they (DJP) stop such behavior right now, I will make a grave decision with the people," Kim said.

At a press meeting in Chonju, Kim Tae-chung charged that the DJP has used "every possible means" to keep his Party for Peace and Democracy from becoming the No. 1 opposition party in the next National Assembly.

Claiming that the DJP won the last presidential election unfairly, Kim said, "If they try to win the general elections again in an unfair way, the people will not sit idle."

At a campaign rally earlier in the day there, the former PPD leader said, "It is impossible for my party to win the elections as long as the DJP massively breaks the law."

"But I am sure that our party will become the No. 1 opposition party with a significant portion of the parliamentary seats," Kim said.

Meeting the press at his party office, Kim Yong-tae, chief campaign manager for the opposition New Democratic Republican Party, said that the DJP made the most of its administrative power and money to rig the coming general elections.

He repeated his party's demand that the major scandals of the Fifth Republic be reprobed to clear popular suspicion.

PPD Releases DJP Members After 7 Hours
SK220317 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] The Prosecutor-General's Office instructed yesterday a close and thorough investigation into the free-for-all between the campaigners of the ruling Democratic Justice Party and the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, in Yongam, Chollanam-do.

At present 17 people from the both sides are being held for questioning.

A total of 31 members of the ruling DJP were harassed by the PPD members after being confined to the rooftop of a house Wednesday night. They were bound and their faces and clothes were painted red to prevent them making a getaway.

The raw violence was touched off Wednesday afternoon when a group of TV personalities came down to the southern provincial town to support Yi Hwan-ui, DJP candidate.

When a woman TV actress handed out campaign leaflets for candidate Yi to a passerby, he refused to receive them saying that he supports PPD candidate Yu In-hak. He then tried to tear down a poster of Yi pasted on a Bongo van. This invited an assault by a group of DJP campaigners.

At the time, a woman, proprietor of a shop nearby tried to stop the gang violence only to be hit by wooden clubs brandished by DJP members. The 52-year-old woman was taken to a hospital in Kwangju.

When the news of the violence spread, PPD followers gathered and ganged up on the DJP campaigners. Being overpowered in terms of numbers, the DJP campaigners were quickly subdued and forced to kneel before the PPD followers. They then were manhandled for about seven hours with their hands tied.

The PPD members did not give in to a police demand that the DJP campaigners be released immediately. The DJP campaigners were taken to the rooftop of a building, where they were held captive for about seven hours before being turned loose at about 1 a.m. yesterday.

The PPD followers had argued that they would not release the DJP campaigners unless DJP candidate Yi makes an apology. At the same time, they demanded immunity from legal action in connection with their violence.

Police said they would accept the demand. However, DJP balked at the demand saying that the DJP alone is not to blame for the free-for-all.

They were set free upon a promise of the chief police station that he would manage to obtain an apology from DJP candidate Yi.

Daily on U.S. Demand for Bigger Defense Share
SK200329 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
14 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Reasonable Sharing of Expenses for the Stationing of the U.S. Forces in Korea"]

[Text] The United States reportedly will demand that Korea bear a greater share of the expenses for the stationing of the U.S. Forces in Korea. As has remained relatively unknown to date, Korea's sharing of expenses for the stationing of U.S. troops in Korea could be unfamiliar to many Korean people. This being the case, the demand that Korea share more expenses for the stationing of U.S. troops in Korea at a time of trade

friction between Korea and the United States, which is symbolized by cigarettes and beef, remains unresolved, will raise doubts with not just a few Korean people.

In fact, our country pays nearly \$1.2 billion a year in expenses for the stationing of U.S. troops in Korea, which amounts to \$27,000 for every U.S. soldier. It is reported that the Japanese Government pays annually \$2.475 billion, \$45,000 for every U.S. soldier, as the cost to sustain U.S. troops in Japan. The number of U.S. troops stationed in Japan is about 10,000 more than in Korea. Looking back on the situation 18 years ago, when the U.S. decision to halt military aid to Korea, about \$200 million, set off a panic across the country, at that time the idea of sharing expenses for the stationing of U.S. troops in Korea was beyond imagination, the fact that our country shares part of expenses for the stationing of U.S. troops in our country sounds like a dream.

In view of our country's economic growth, which our country owes to our country's trade surplus with the United States, and in view of the U.S. economic decline, it is natural for our country to share, to the best of its ability, the expenses needed to sustain U.S. troops in Korea, who defend the freedom on the forefront. This is why Korea and Japan have long shared part of the expenses necessary to station U.S. troops in their countries.

However, it is our hope that the Korean and U.S. authorities, the U.S. side that calls on our country to bear a greater share of expenses in particular, would take into consideration the sharply different reality that faces the two countries. First of all, they should remember that our country spends about 6 percent of the country's GNP or about 33 percent of its national budget for military expenditure, whereas Japan spends only 1.004 percent of its GNP or 6.50 percent of its state budget, not to mention the big difference between the two countries in terms of national strength as a whole. We do not insist that the two countries share their respective expenses for the stationing of U.S. troops in their countries according to this ratio. However, the U.S. demand that we bear a still greater share of defense expenses does not seem to be reasonable.

Second, unlike Japan, our country pays most of its defense expenditures by collecting defense taxes that imposes some burden on every member of the population. Our country had to start collecting defense taxes in 1970 when the United States withdrew a division troops from Korea, which led to a complete halt of U.S. military aid. Of course, the United States has been helping our country build its own self-defense capabilities in various ways and has never spared efforts in modernizing the Korean Armed Forces.

This notwithstanding, the pressure on Korea concerning defense expenditures has continued to grow and our country stands no chance of extricating itself from such pressure as long as North Korea and its supporter, the Soviet Union, continue to build up their military. This

may be the reason why our country has not been able to abolish the defense tax system, which was put in force for a limit of only 5 years, even after its expiration.

Despite this argument, we do not mean to say that we hope, as the United States does, that Japan would share defense expenses commensurate with its national strength. In reality, we are rather watchful about Japan's military spending, which has continued to grow over the past several decades to the point where it is ranked seventh or eighth largest in the world. What is more, Japan has steadily and visibly increased its military spending since 1983 and we are concerned, because Japan will certainly emerge as the third strongest military power, going ahead of the United Kingdom, France, and West Germany, toward the end of the 1980's, if it continues to advance at its present pace. Viewed in this light, we hope that the countries concerned will discuss arrangements that encourage Japan to bear a greater share of the expenses for the stationing of U.S. troops in Japan, rather than demand that Korea do the same thing.

New Ambassador to Washington Announced
SK211414 Seoul YONHAP in English
1259 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea's Foreign Ministry Thursday appointed former Foreign Minister Pak Tong-chin as new ambassador to Washington in an ambassadorial-level reshuffle involving six posts.

In the reshuffle, Pak Su-kil, first assistant minister, was appointed ambassador to Canada while Chang Myong-kwan, chief of protocol, ambassador to Spain. Yi Hyon-hong, minister at the Korean Embassy in Washington, was named as new ambassador to Nepal. Han Chang-sik, minister at the embassy in Tokyo, was appointed as ambassador to Sudan while Yi Tong-ik, director of the foreign ministry trade bureau, was assigned to Kenya, the ministry said.

Suharto, Aquino Accept Invitations to Visit
SK210349 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
21 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Choe Kwang-su said that Indonesian President Suharto and President Aquino of the Philippines have accepted the invitations of President No Tae-u to visit Korea.

Upon arrival at Kimpo Airport yesterday from his two-week visit to five ASEAN countries, Choe said the two heads of state also invited President No to visit their countries.

He said both Aquino and Suharto expressed their intention to visit Korea as soon as possible, possibly before the end of this year, although the schedules have not been decided yet.

Choe said many officials of the countries he visited including Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei showed keen interest in adoption of development strategies modeled after Korea and asked Korea to help them.

He said he told the ASEAN leaders he met that Korea has as yet no plan to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) but he thinks that it is time for the country to carefully deliberate the issue.

The officials of ASEAN countries told Choe that they expect Korea to play a leading role during the coming age of Asia and the Pacific.

They also showed interest in Korea's relationship with the Soviet Union and other Communist countries, especially China, Choe said.

Minister Choe left Seoul April 6 to attend the 44th annual meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He delivered a keynote speech to the meeting April 12.

Ban Sought on Travel by Chon's Father-in-Law
SK211045 Seoul YONHAP in English
1012 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—Concerned authorities have asked the Ministry of Justice to prohibit the father-in-law of former President Chon Tu-hwan from leaving the country, it was reported Thursday.

Some newspaper reports here quoted an official of the ministry's immigration office as saying that a request has been filed at the office demanding that a departure ban be instituted for Yi Kyu-tong in the course of the prosecution's probe into irregularities involving Chon Kyong-hwan.

The official, however, said that he was unaware of the particular case which became the grounds for the requested ban.

Reports also said the official denied a rumor which alleged that the authorities sought similar bans for other close relatives of the former president.

Yi, the 77-year-old father-in-law of former President Chon, once headed the Korean Association of the Aged while his son-in-law was in power. Chon stepped down from the presidency last Feb. 25.

Meanwhile, a prosecution source said it was his personal view that Yi should be investigated if compelling evidence shows he was involved in vested interests of various kinds.

Reports in leading Seoul newspapers Thursday said the Seoul city government purchased 770 million won (1,040,000 U.S. dollars) worth of pine-nut trees from Yi's tree plantation under private contracts over the past six years. Reports said Yi, who owns a huge tree farm in Hwasung-gun, Kyonggi province, received 200,000 pine-nut tree saplings from the Hwasung-gun government office as donations over a three-year period beginning in 1984.

Government offices in Korea are normally prohibited from engaging in private contracts with private businesses in their business dealings.

Meanwhile, during a news conference Thursday, President No Tae-u, asked to comment on the prosecution's probe into the scandals involving the Saemaul (New Community) Movement headquarters, said, any crime should be punished in accordance with the laws and there will be no exception to that.

Chon's younger brother, Kyong-hwan, who led the semi-official rural development movement for several years during Chon's presidency, has recently been indicted in connection with the wrongdoing he allegedly committed while serving as the president of the movement's headquarters.

Opposition political parties are openly that the incumbent government conduct a thorough probe into the irregularities in which they insist Chon and his relatives were involved.

UNDP To Provide Economic Assistance
SK210341 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] The United Nations Development Program will provide \$1,034,000 to assist socio-economic development in Korea.

In a brief ceremony at the Ministry of Science and Technology yesterday, Chang Sung-tae, director-general for technical cooperation, and UNDP Representative N.S. Subbaraman signed three project documents.

The first project will raise Korean research competence in science and technology policy to the international level by upgrading the staff of the Center for Science and Technology Policy and by establishing links with similar research centers in foreign countries.

The second project is a continuation of UNDP assistance to the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) under three previous projects.

It aims to enhance KORDI's research techniques for study of oceans and the development of deep sea and coastal resources.

The third project is a nationwide survey, by the Environmental Administration, of the biological diversity and structural components of Korean ecosystems.

Since it started its activities in Korea in 1962, UNDP has provided approximately \$62 million in grants and technical assistance for socio-economic development.

Beef, Tobacco To Be Discussed With U.S.
SK210633 Seoul YONHAP in English
0545 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Washington, April 20 (YONHAP)—A U.S. trade mission, headed by Peter Allgeier, assistant U.S. Trade Representative, will meet with Korean officials in Seoul from May 2-5 to discuss such bilateral trade issues as Korea's imports of U.S. beef and tobacco a diplomatic source in Washington said Wednesday.

The sources said the talks will also focus on advertisements, intellectual property and agricultural products.

The U.S. government, relying on section 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act, has launched investigations into Korea's alleged unfair trade practices concerning its imports of foreign beef and cigarettes.

During the Seoul talks, Seoul and Washington are likely to reach an agreement on a wider opening of Korea's markets for U.S.-made cigarettes, the source said.

He added, however, that the two sides are not expected to resolve their differences over the beef issue during the Seoul talks since a special commission will be organized to discuss the matter during the GATT's council meeting in Geneva on May 4.

Allgeier, assistant trade representative for East Asia and the Pacific, and Sandra Kristoff, deputy assistant trade representative, are expected to leave Saturday for Taipei for another round of trade talks with Taiwanese officials before arriving in Seoul on May 1.

U.S. Shoe Buyers 'Likely' To Reduce Imports
SK200745 Seoul YONHAP in English
0731 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—Leading footwear buyers in the United States, attracted by Indonesia's lower labor costs, are likely to cut back on their imports from Korea.

Industry sources here said Wednesday that Nike and Reebok, two leading U.S. footwear manufacturers, have launched efforts to gradually reduce their purchases of quality footwear from Korea beginning this year, while increasing domestic production and imports from Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries.

Reebok, the main buyer of footwear manufactured by Korea's H.S. Corporation, is currently involved in negotiations to cut its footwear purchases from the Korean company.

Business analysts said the surging value of the Korean won currency against the U.S. dollar coupled with wage increases higher than those of Korea's Asian competitors are causing U.S. footwear buyers to shift their import sources to Indonesia, whose footwear manufacturing technology has become quite competitive in recent years.

In addition, the continuing devaluation of the U.S. dollar has not only enhanced the price competitiveness of the U.S. footwear industry but has also boosted its profitability stemming from the resumed operation of production lines, some of which had been shut down for years, according to the analysts.

The United States bought 1.68 billion dollars worth of Korean footwear last year, accounting for 65.3 percent of the nation's total footwear exports.

Import Taxes on Foreign Cars To Be Lowered
SK200142 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
20 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] A variety of high taxes imposed on foreign passenger cars will be lowered to the level now levied on locally-produced passenger cars in a bid to head off trade friction with the United States and other advanced countries.

The government's position on the tax reduction for foreign passenger cars was disclosed in a meeting of the private-level council for the promotion of the domestic automobile industry at the Korea Automobile Industries Cooperative Association yesterday.

However, the exact date for the reduction of the high levies on foreign passenger cars has not been set definitely. Their imports will be entirely liberalized effective July 1 this year, regardless of their engine capacity.

The meeting was held in order to facilitate the participation of automakers in the making of government policy for the development of the domestic automobile industry as well as to enhance their autonomous role.

In the meeting, the Trade-Industry Ministry said that it is inevitable various customs duties and tax disfavor imposed on foreign passenger cars will be removed, citing the dumping charge brought against Hyundai's subcompacts sold on the Canadian market.

Even though the Canada Import Tribunal recently ruled that Hyundai's small passenger cars with an engine capacity of less than 2,000cc were not sold below their normal prices on the Canadian market, the ministry said

that there might arise dumping suits against Korean cars on international markets unless disadvantages imposed on imported foreign cars are removed.

The ministry said that it will encourage domestic automobile makers to expand cooperation with their U.S. counterparts and to buy more U.S. automotive parts and components to avoid the mounting trade friction with the United States.

This year, the total purchase of automotive parts and components from the United States is set at \$256 million, compared with the \$34 million recorded in 1986.

The ministry reported in the meeting that the present 30 percent customs duties imposed on imports of foreign passenger cars will be reduced to 25 percent next year, 20 percent in 1990 and 15 percent in 1992.

Meanwhile, the ministry said that it will have domestic automobile makers enhance the localization of their products in order to step up the international competitiveness of Korean cars.

To help domestic automobile industries localize their cars further, the ministry will designate an additional 150 automotive parts and components this year for which local production will be developed, realizing the localization of 100 items by the end of this year.

The government has so far designated 302 automotive parts and components for local production. Of them, the localization of 152 items had been realized as of the end of last year, effectuating import substitutions worth \$130 million.

Mindful of the spread of labor disturbances in connection with wage increases throughout the country, the ministry said that if domestic automakers hike wages for their workers 10 percent on the average, their production cost would go up 2.27 percent. The ministry also said that in case they increase wages by 20 percent, their car production costs would go up 4.54 percent, thereby seriously lowering their price competitiveness on the international market.

The ministry said that the nation's total production of automobiles will increase from the 1,110,000 units as of the end of last year to 1,470,000 units this year and its total exports from the 541,000 units of last year to 765,000 units.

Major Automakers Face Suspended Production
SK210255 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
21 Apr 88 p 6

[Text] The nation's major automakers may have to partially suspend production due to a shortage of some key auto parts in the wake of labor disputes at auto part manufacturing companies.

Following Daewoo Motor Co.'s suspension of operations, the Hyundai Motor, Kia Industrial and Ssangyong Moor companies are faced with a partial suspension in the assembly of some buses and trucks, industry sources said yesterday. Due to a prolonged labor dispute at the Tongil Co., which provides Hyundai with axles for large trucks, Hyundai is confronted with the suspended production of 8-ton, 11-ton and 15-ton cargo trucks and dump trucks, the sources said.

Hyundai has a limited inventory of axles and it is feared that production could be suspended beginning today.

Hyundai is also experiencing difficulties in maintaining its supply of transmissions and axles for smaller trucks and buses because of labor disputes at the Korea Spicer Co., another major supplier of auto parts, raising concern over the possible suspended production of 1-ton and 3-ton trucks and buses.

Kia Industrial Co., also a recipient of axles and transmissions from the Tongil Co., is on the verge of halting production of 1-ton minibuses and 2.4-ton trucks.

Kia produces 150 to 200 minibuses and trucks daily while the supply of transmissions from Tongil has fallen to units a day and the supply of axles ended April 2.

Ssangyong Motor Co., the producer of Korando Jeeps, might have to suspend the production of jeeps if the labor disputes at Tongil continue.

Tongil's supply of jeep transmissions has been suspended but Ssangyong has a 15-day inventory of transmissions which will enable the company to manufacture jeeps until May 5.

Export of High-Tech to East Bloc To Halt
SK220227 Seoul YONHAP in English
0210 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea is likely to halt exports to communist nations of such high-tech goods as computers, semiconductor chips, and numerical control machine tools due to pressure by the United States.

A foreign ministry official said Friday that the Korean government has already signed a memorandum of understanding to comply with the regulations of the Coordinating Committee for Export to Communist Areas (Cocom). The memorandum was signed last September at the request of the United States.

He said, however, that a parliamentary approval of the agreement would not come early because the first session of the National Assembly is not expected until May at the earliest. General elections are slated for April 26.

He added that the two governments should work on details of the projected export ban, including items, areas and procedures, since no accords have yet been reached between the two on such matters.

A trade and industry ministry official said the U.S. government had hoped that South Korea would agree to ban exports of all 121 Cocom-designated items.

He said, however, that South Korea can now produce only six of those items but will be able to produce up to 20 items in the next five years.

He added that the U.S. government wants immediate action but the Korean government hopes to implement the export ban next year at the earliest.

He declined, however, to disclose how many of the sensitive high-tech goods South Korea has been shipping to communist countries.

Meanwhile, local traders have expressed concern over a provision of the memorandum signed which calls for tough retaliatory trade action by the United States if South Korea fails to comply with the Cocom regulations.

Agriculture, Marine Markets To Be Opened
SK201011 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Apr 99 p 6

[Text] Agricultural and marine products, which are not self-sufficient for the country, will be gradually imported. The agricultural market opening will be done on a selective basis to minimize the possible damage to farmers.

The move is designed to cope efficiently with the ever-mounting agricultural market opening pressure from the advanced countries, according to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry.

In line with the move, the ministry has got down to an investigation into the supply-demand situation concerning the products.

In connection with the imports of farm products, furthermore, the system of "prior notice" for items and the timing will go into effect so that farmers may prepare for the agricultural imports, according to them.

They said that the ministry defined that rice and beef, a major income source for farmers, will continue to be kept from the market opening but the corn and soybean market will be opened on a gradual basis.

But the ministry will take measures, including the taxation of imports, so as not to affect the domestic production base even in the case of import liberalization, the officials said.

A high-ranking official, said that the agricultural market opening is "inevitable" with the nation's trade volume registering 12th in the world.

Economic Team Seeking Ways To Solve Problems
SK220224 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
22 Apr 88 p 6

[Text] Nearly two months after its inauguration, the new economic team led by Deputy Prime Minister Na Ung-pae is yet to seek effective ways to solve problems facing the Korean economy, notably the ever accelerating foreign pressure for the nation's wider market-opening and the rekindling serious labor-management disputes.

Na and other economic officials are desperate to solve the problems, which also include a rapidly rising inflation rate, as their success or failure in completing their mission will apparently affect the future course of the national economy as the top economic administrator admitted.

Stumbling blocks standing in the way to solving the problems first concern widespread discord on the formula of solutions to the troubles and strong resistance against government proposals from a variety of elements.

In search for the solution formula agreed upon by different interest groups and the public, Na and senior officials at the Economic Planning Board are inaugurating an advisory group for President No Tae-u, which will be responsible for securing public accord on the matters and passing the accorded solution formula to the President.

The advisory group consists of a conference with about 30 prominent socioeconomic leaders and scholars as members, three committees with about 10 members each and the secretariat to be set up at the Korea Development Institute [KDI], an economic think tank funded by the government.

A KDI announcement said the advisory group will start its activities late next week, and will produce an interim letter of policy recommendations in August and the final one by the end of October.

Not a few scholars and business leaders, however, doubt the task force can attain its mission in such a short period of time.

None of the problems are easy to solve. One of the most serious troubles is the rekindling trade disputes with the United States, the nation's top trade partner. With an ever rising trade surplus with the American country, Korea has come under ever accelerating U.S. pressure for wider market-opening plus rapid appreciation of the Korean won.

The Korean government has seen strong local resistance against its move to comply with the U.S. request to open the farm goods market. Farmers have staged strong protests against the government in recent months and plan to hold another rally in Seoul tomorrow. They are desperate in opposing the government moves to import beef, pork, chicken and wine.

Businesses are against the rapid appreciation of the local currency as it will worsen their international competitiveness and profitability. So far this year the Korean won has appreciated against the U.S. dollar by about 6 percent, in addition to a 8.7 percent appreciation last year. Business watchers view not a view exporters, notably small companies, will apparently go bankrupt in the case of a 10 percent appreciation this year. Earlier this year U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker reportedly asked for a 15 percent appreciation when he met with Minister of Finances SaKong Il in Washington.

No less serious is the recurrent labor-management disputes in major industries. Workers are asking for a nearly 30 percent increase in their wages this year, while managers are intending to curb the salary increase rate at below 10 percent. No breakthrough in the disputes is in sight as evidenced by strikes at Daewoo Motor Co. and Daewoo shipbuilding & Heavy Machinery, Ltd.

The high inflation rate, fueled by the booming housing and land market plus the ample liquidity, are also troubling the Korean economy. Consumer prices increased a surprising 3.6 percent during the first three months this year, the highest level since 1981. The comparable inflation rate was 3.1 percent for the whole of 1987, 3.4 percent in 1983 and 7.2 percent in 1981.

Burma

President Reports Rice, Oil Shortfalls

BK201540 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] U San Yu, vice chairman of the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP) and president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, who is also the People's Assembly representative for Rangoon Division's Bahan Township Constituency-1, reported on the fifth and the sixth sessions of the Fourth People's Assembly at a meeting held in the Saya San Hall of the Kyaikkasan Grounds in Rangoon today. [passage omitted]

Dealing with the important tasks of the fifth and the sixth sessions of the Fourth People's Assembly, BSPP Vice Chairman and President U San Yu said he would explain some points regarding the economy. In the agricultural sector, although efforts were made with the strength of the people to boost paddy production, paddy yield was below the planned production target. This was because of the failure to cultivate according to the targeted acreage and also because of weather conditions and the farming input situation.

In the industrial sector, factories could not operate at full capacity due to the shortage of local and imported raw materials, machinery parts, and fuel oil. Since the plants could not operate at full capacity, production of textiles, consumer and household goods, and fuel oil declined compared to previous years.

Burma was also affected to a certain extent by the difficulties arising from the world economic, trade, and monetary problems. Burma has been pooling its productive resources and seeking ways to withstand such effects. In doing so, it will be necessary to try and boost production by a marked degree and to create better economic conditions. U San Yu said every effort must be made, particularly to ensure a steady development of production in the agricultural sector—the primary economic sector of the state.

The agricultural sector, with a fair amount of investment, can provide basic consumer commodities, raw materials needed by the local factories and mills, as well as export goods. Moreover, it is a sector which can produce beneficial results within a year or a season.

In the mining sector, exploration and seismic programs are being carried out to locate new mines. Exploration of crude oil and natural gas is also being undertaken. Energy plays a significant role in the performance of the state economic enterprises and is also a requisite for production and transportation work. However, since crude oil production has declined year after year, fuel oil requirements of the production and the transportation sectors could not be met. Under such a situation, short- and long-term measures have been introduced to ease the oil shortage. As a short-term scheme, work has been

expanded in the exploration of crude and natural gas, in the digging of new oil wells, and in laying oil pipelines. Moreover, an oil substitution process is also under study and being implemented.

With an objective of promoting the agricultural sector as well as the peasants' interests, all crops, with the exception of some industrial raw material crops, have been decontrolled. After the decontrolling of crops, including paddy, conditions were created to enable private entrepreneurs to engage in the export trade. Those wishing to engage in this trade could register as exporters and obtain the assistance of the departments concerned. Moreover, arrangements have been made to enable these entrepreneurs to secure loans with collateral from the banks in accordance with banking procedures.

Efforts are being made under prevailing conditions to meet the food, clothing, and shelter requirements of the people and to ensure that production of key primary commodities is operated regularly. Taking international commodity loans that carry soft interest rates, using the barter system, as well as direct purchasing are the methods being employed to obtain the needed machinery parts and raw materials.

U San Yu said BSPP Chairman U Ne Win, commenting about the existing political, economic, and social conditions of Burma, instructed that there will be successes as well as failures in doing one's duty. One should, however, not be complacent about the successes and should try to achieve even greater successes and improve things, and suggestions should be made on how to go about achieving this end. Similarly, failures should be reported without concealing the facts.

In accordance with the instructions of the party chairman, we have implemented immediate measures after reviewing the experiences of the previous years and have made changes where necessary. [passage omitted]

Thai Army Chief, Delegation Visit 21 Apr

Welcomed at Airport

BK210735 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
0630 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] A Thai Government delegation headed by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, supreme commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and army chief, flew into Rangoon by special plane at 0800 today. Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his delegation were welcomed at Rangoon Airport by Gen Saw Maung, deputy defense minister and chief of staff; Lieutenant General Than Shwe, army vice chief of staff; Rear Admiral Maung Maung Khin, naval vice chief of staff; Major General Tin Tun, air vice chief of staff; Maj Gen Pe Myaing, adjutant general; Maj Gen Phone Myint, quartermaster general; high-ranking military officials; Mr Thongchan Chotikasathian, Thai ambassador to Burma; staff members of the Thai Embassy; and responsible officials.

Gen Chawalit and Gen Saw Maung later inspected the guards of honor.

Gen Chawalit was accompanied by a 150-member delegation comprising high-ranking officials of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and different government departments.

At 0930, Gen Chawalit and his party visited the Defense Services reception hall and met with Gen Saw Maung, deputy defense minister and chief of staff; U Saw Hlaing, deputy minister of foreign affairs; U Than Nyunt, deputy minister of energy; U U Saw Hla, deputy minister of industry-2; Colonel Tin Gyi, deputy minister of trade; Dr Tun Hla Pru, deputy minister of health; U Hlaing Myint, deputy minister of agriculture and forests; and responsible officials of the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

At 1030, Gen Chawalit and a party paid a courtesy call on Gen Saw Maung at the Dagon Yeiktha. Also present at the meeting were the vice chiefs of staff and high-ranking military officials.

At the same time, other members of the Thai delegation from different government departments visited the ministries concerned and had talks with their counterparts.

Received by Prime Minister

BK210710 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
0630 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, received General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, supreme commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and Army commander in chief, at the Office of the Council of Ministers at 1130 today.

Present on the occasion together with U Maung Maung Kha were U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs; U Aung Kyaw Myint, minister of information and culture; Gen Saw Maung, deputy minister of defense and chief of General Staff; and U Kyaw Tint, director general of the Office of the Council of Ministers.

Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut was accompanied at the meeting by Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan, commander of the Royal Thai Navy; Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, commander of the Royal Thai Air Force; Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, chief of staff of the Royal Thai Armed Forces; Mr Thongchan Chotikasathian, Thai ambassador to Burma; and Mr Koson Sinthuwanon, deputy permanent secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry.

Rivers Project Proposed

BK220145 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Thailand yesterday proposed to Burma a joint project to develop five border rivers at a cost of \$6,579 million.

Under the proposal, seven dams are to be constructed; one on the Salween River (\$5,846 million), one on the Ruak River (\$32 million), one on the Kok River (\$155 million), three on the Moei River (\$520 million), and another on Klong Ka (\$26 million).

The proposal was made by National Energy Authority secretary-general Praphat Premani to his Burmese counterpart during their discussion in Rangoon yesterday.

It was reported that the dam at the Salween alone would generate 6,400 megawatts of electricity per year for the two countries after its completion within 16 years.

Rangoon accepted the proposal for consideration, noting that it had to take into account economic, political and border problems, sources said.

Mr Praphat was among a 150-member Thai delegation, headed by Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who paid a one-day visit to Burma.

Other prominent delegates were the air force and navy commanders-in-chief, commanders of the 1st, 3rd and 4th regional armies, the police chief, National Security Council chief, Central Investigation Bureau commissioner and the deputy permanent secretaries of foreign affairs, interior and commerce.

The delegates were received at Mingaladon Airport by Burmese Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Gen Saw Maung.

Besides energy, other topics discussed included Burma's rebel minority groups, trade cooperation, timber trade, cooperation to resolve border problems, narcotics, telecommunications development and exchange of medical staff.

Rangoon reportedly agreed in principle to open five more border points for timber trade in addition to the one already opened in Chiang Mai to allow in 8,800 tons of teak sold to a Thai timber company.

On the exchange of medical staff, Thailand proposed that Burma send its medical staff to Bangkok for training.

Gen Chawalit also called on Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha and gave him a message from Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon.

Thai Delegation Departs

BK211402 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpts] A Thai Government delegation headed by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, supreme commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and army chief, flew in to Rangoon by a special plane at 0800 today. [passage omitted]

At 1530, the Thai delegation members visited the Shwedagon Pagoda.

The delegation headed by Gen Chawalit left Rangoon by a special plane at 1715 today. The Thai guests were seen off at Rangoon Airport by Gen Saw Maung, deputy minister of defense and chief of staff; the vice chiefs of staff; high-ranking military officials; the Thai ambassador to Burma and staff members of the Thai Embassy; and responsible officials.

Government Rejects Peace Talks With Rebels

BK220153 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Apr 88 p 9

[Excerpt] The Burmese Government will not hold peace talks with rebel minority groups but would welcome them if they disarm and surrender, Burmese Defence Minister and Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff General Saw Maung said yesterday.

The top Burmese military leader made this remark when asked to comment on a report that the rebel National Democratic Front [NDF] is approaching the Ne Win Government with proposals to end its insurgency.

"We never pushed them out to the jungle. So, if they want to come, just come," said Gen Saw Maung.

The NDF is a coalition of 10 guerrilla groups including the Kachin, Wa, Palaung, Pa-o, Karenni, Arakanese, Lahu and Shan rebels.

Gen Saw Maung described the revolutionary theory of these rebel minorities as "nonsense." To conduct a revolution, he said, they need to have strong support from the masses.

"After the minority groups laid down their arms and surrendered in 1962, and then returned to the jungle after no agreement was reached, I have never seen them grow bigger," he said, adding that the rebels constitute only five percent of the entire Burmese population.

This indicates that they lack popular support, said Gen Saw Maung.

"They will not win popular support by showing an interest to hold truce talks," he said.

Meanwhile, Gen Than Shwe, Vice Chief-of Staff for Army, said the Burmese Government does not regard the rebel minorities as being an important problem.

"In fact, they are posing problems for Thailand because they are positioned near the Thai border," he said. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

SRV Vice Foreign Minister Ends 5-Day Visit

Comments on Khmer Rouge

BK220458 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0434 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The formation of a Kampuchean coalition government could be one of the subjects discussed by an all-Khmer "cocktail party", a reception which a Vietnamese official Friday [22 April] said must include the Khmer Rouge (KR) in the spirit of national reconciliation.

"They can talk about everything that concerns them," Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co told a news conference at the Vietnamese Embassy here, marking the end of his 5-day visit to Malaysia.

He did not rule out discussions on the formation of a coalition government during the first of the two-stage "cocktail party", a proposal Indonesian Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas, is pushing for since assuming the post recently.

His predecessor, Professor Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, had earlier this year dropped the idea which was outlined in the Ho Chi Minh communique which he had signed with his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Co Thach, last year.

Vietnam and all concerned parties to the decade-old problem would be participants in the second stage of the "cocktail party", a party that is an informal get-together, but one which officials said must also contain substance towards a political solution.

On the KR, Tran said it must participate in the political life of Kampuchea, "but in a manner that is in full conformity with national reconciliation."

By this, he said, he meant getting rid of the "genocidal Pol Pot clique" within the KR, a reference to the former ruler of the country whose Khmer Rouge killed millions of his own people.

Tran Friday left for Manila via Bangkok after talks here with his counterpart, Dr Toh Muda Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, and discussions at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

'Confident' of Cambodia Solution

BK220650 Kuala Lumpur International
Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Vietnam is confident that a political solution to the Kampuchean problem can be found by 1990 or earlier. Its vice foreign minister, Mr Tran Quang Co, told a news conference in Kuala Lumpur that the last stage of the solution will be an international conference where the international community will have to provide the necessary guarantees and supervision to implement an agreement on the solution. He reiterated that Vietnam will withdraw its troops from Kampuchea in 1990 regardless of a solution being found or not.

Mr Tran was in Kuala Lumpur for a 5-day official visit. He left for Bangkok this afternoon. During his stay, Mr Tran held talks with the minister of foreign affairs, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, and his deputy, Datuk Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan.

He said that Vietnam still believed that the proposed cocktail party or informal talks among all the warring factions in Kampuchea should be held as the first step toward national reconciliation of the Khmer people. Vietnam and the ASEAN countries will join in the talks at the second stage.

Mr Tran refused to comment on the Malaysian Cabinet's proposal to close down Pulau Bidong as the transit center for illegal Vietnamese immigrants within 1 year. He described this as a delicate and sensitive issue.

Foreign Minister Comments on Cambodian Issue

BK211431 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1
in Malay 1200 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Malaysia wants those directly or indirectly involved in the Cambodian conflict to hold further talks to solve the problem. Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said this today, adding that a settlement to the conflict depends not only on the third round of talks between PRK leader Hun Sen and DK leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but also on Vietnam's sincerity toward the issue.

Datuk Abu Hassan made the remarks to newsmen after meeting with Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat at the Foreign Ministry today. He wants Laos, which is Vietnam's close ally, to bring that country to the negotiating table. Laos has in turn assured its full cooperation. Malaysia and Laos have also agreed to improve their economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Drug Arrests, Seizures

Twenty-nine people, including a foreigner, were arrested as suspected drug traffickers and more than 45 kg of drugs were seized in Perlis in the first quarter of 1988.

Kangar District Police Chief (Elias Ishak) said the drugs comprised 31.28 kg of raw opium, 13.4 kg of ganja, and 0.7 kg of heroin. He told a press conference that police also detained 101 addicts aged between 19 and 34, adding that of the 29 suspects picked up for drug trafficking, 4 could be charged under Section 29 (b) of the Dangerous Drug Act, which provides for a mandatory death sentence on conviction. [Summary] [BK181323 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Apr 88]

Singapore

Home Ministry Explains Rearrest of Detainees

BK211159 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 21 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] The government yesterday produced fresh evidence to support its arrest last year of 22 people for involvement in a Marxist conspiracy.

It showed the plot was a full-blown Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] operation and not just an indigenous, independent, amateur effort at subversion, the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

In a statement explaining the rearrest on Tuesday of eight people who had been detained in connection with the plot and subsequently released, the ministry rejected their suggestion that the plot was a government fabrication and that they had been coerced into making false statements.

It also reiterated that none of the detainees was assaulted or tortured.

The government, it said, neither condoned torture nor allowed ISD [Internal Security Department] officers to practise it.

Declaring, however, that the government could not take these allegations lightly, the ministry announced that a Commission of Inquiry would be held to determine:

Whether the Marxist conspiracy was a government fabrication;

The circumstances under which the nine ex-detainees had retracted their previous statements; and

Whether the detainees were assaulted and tortured as alleged.

The ministry confirmed that the eight had been rearrested because of the joint statement they issued on Monday retracting admissions they had made while under detention last year and asserting that they had never been Marxist conspirators or involved in any conspiracy.

"When they claim, or worse if they truly believe, that they have done nothing wrong, there is every likelihood that they will resume their former activities," the ministry said.

"The government must determine why they have repudiated their earlier statements and reversed their positions."

Of the ninth person arrested on Tuesday, Law Society Council member Patrick Seong Kwok Kei, the ministry said his detention was "in connection with the investigations".

It disclosed that an arrest warrant had been issued for Tang Fong Har, another ex-detainee whose name was on the joint statement.

The ministry said Tang, who had been given permission to visit Hong Kong and Britain last month by the director, Internal Security Department, had violated the terms of her release by failing to return to Singapore by April 7 as agreed.

Responding to the detainees' denial that they had been involved in any kind of conspiracy, the ministry said if their statement were true, the government "would have been acting in bad faith and would have abused its powers" when it arrested them last year.

This, it said, would be sufficient grounds for the detainees to challenge the government's action in court.

Adding that all nine signatories of the joint statement had lawyers and were fully advised of their rights, the ministry noted that the detainees had chosen not to take their case to court.

"Instead, they remained silent for four to 10 months after their release and then made a joint public statement. They felt no sense of urgency or passion in their complaints," the ministry said.

Referring to the detainees' "unspecific and vague allegations of torture", the ministry said the government had never denied that it "uses psychological pressure to break down the defenses which every detainee builds around himself" to uncover the truth that every guilty suspect wishes to conceal.

It reiterated however that if neither condoned torture nor allowed ISD officers to practise it, and said the illegal use of force was a criminal offense.

If anyone was tortured, the ministry said, he or she should seek redress in court.

The detainees and lawyers were aware of this but had not done so, it added.

Earlier in its eight-page statement, the ministry stressed that it acted on the conspiracy last year only after lengthy and intensive investigations and after careful deliberation.

It disclosed for the first time that Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew had spoken to the Pope, when the latter visited Singapore in November 1986, of his concerns over Vincent Cheng and other radicals using the Catholic church as a cover for their activities.

The statement also revealed that the government had decided on the arrests last May partly because Cheng, named as a central figure in the plot, was planning to leave for the Philippines for further studies.

There was a danger he would further widen the Marxist network, the ministry said.

It added that its assessment of the conspiracy was subsequently substantiated and fully vindicated by discoveries, here and in Malaysia, of previously unknown links between Tan Wah Piow, the mastermind of the conspiracy, and the CPM.

The conspiracy was not a local, amateur affair but a CPM operation to make in-roads into the English-educated groups using English-educated intellectuals, the ministry said.

The CPM knew that unless it achieved this breakthrough, it could not survive as an efficient force in Malaysia and Singapore.

Concluding, the ministry said the detainees' joint statement was meant to generate publicity and trigger agitation by foreign human rights groups and put pressure on the government.

Saying no government could not be deterred from using the ISD by such tactics, it reiterated that it had good reason for rearresting the Marxist conspirators last year and would continue to detain subversives without trial if the public interest required it.

The eight ex-detainees rearrested on Tuesday were law graduate Kevin de Souza, 27; advertising executive Kenneth Tsang Chi Seng, 35; former social worker Ng Bee Leng, 24; polytechnic lecturer Cheng Sam Tze, 39; lawyers Teo Soh Lung, 39; and Tang Lay Joo, 34; Singapore Broadcasting Corporation subtitle editor William Yap Hon Ngian, 41; and accountancy graduate and amateur dramatist Wong Souk Yee, 29.

Further on Arrests
BK211245 Hong Kong AFP in English
1216 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Singapore, April 21 (AFP)—Singapore Thursday [21 April] tied political activists abroad to an alleged Marxist plot to subvert the government in which 22 people were detained without trial last year.

The Home Affairs Ministry said some of the plotters had contacts in Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, China and several European countries, who provided funds, training or information for the alleged conspiracy.

Eight of the 22 were re-arrested Tuesday after they repudiated earlier televised confessions which they said had been obtained through physical and mental abuse in detention. A lawyer representing two of them was also arrested.

Singapore announced Wednesday it would appoint a commission of inquiry to determine why the ex-detainees had recanted, whether the conspiracy was a government fabrication and whether the detainees were assaulted.

A statement from the Home Affairs Ministry reiterated the government's conviction, however, that it had been "fully vindicated in its assessment that this was a Marxist conspiracy which had to be broken up." It also denied any use of torture.

Leaders of two opposition parties Thursday welcomed the news of an inquiry but said commission members should be neutral and independent.

Workers Party leader Benjamin Jeyaretnam said the commission should be headed by "a non-government man, if possible an international jurist."

Chiam See Tong, sole remaining opposition MP in the 79-seat Parliament, also said the detainees "must be immediately released because even if there is no physical torture and only psychological pressure, as the government says, they can't be objective witnesses later on."

A lawyer for two of the nine detained Tuesday, Francis Seow, said Thursday he had been instructed by family members to file writs of habeas corpus as soon as possible to get them produced in court.

They were held under the Internal Security Act (ISA) which provides for detention without trial.

The brother of lawyer Teo Soh Lung also lodged a police report Thursday alleging she had been physically abused during her earlier detention, Mr. Seow said. The report was lodged in response to a government challenge, he added.

The latest Home Affairs statement focused on links to the banned Communist Party of Malaya (CPM), which it said was behind the Singapore conspiracy.

It cited additional information provided by the government of neighboring Malaysia, which conducted its own security sweep in October and November last year, detaining 119 people without trial.

Singapore had detained 22 social activists—including Roman Catholic lay workers, legal reformers and opposition party sympathizers—under the ISA last May and June. All but one had since been released.

In a statement (?to the) press Monday, nine of the ex-detainees categorically denied involvement in any conspiracy and said they felt they had been detained "for the legitimate exercise of our rights as citizens."

Extensive excerpts of interviews with them carried on local television during their detention were "grossly distorted and misrepresented by editing and commentaries which attributed highly sinister motives to our actions and associations," they said.

They [words indistinct] to break their "rueful and fearful silence" because of a "constant barrage of government taunts and its public invitation to speak the truth on the conditions we were subjected to under arrest and detention."

Government officials had responded to reports that the detainees were mistreated by inviting them to lodge police reports, as the illegal use of force is a criminal offence under Singapore law.

A Home Affairs statement Wednesday said it had rearrested the ex-detainees to "determine why they have repudiated their earlier statements and reversed their positions."

"When they claim, or worse if they truly believe, that they have done nothing wrong, there is every likelihood that they will resume their former activities," it said.

Cambodia

CPV International Department Group Arrives
BK220106 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1114 GMT
21 Apr 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK, April 21—A delegation of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam arrived here Thursday (21 April) for an official friendship visit to Kampuchea.

The delegation led by Hoang Bich Son, member of the Central Committee of the CPV and head of its department, was warmly welcomed at Pochentong Airport by

Yos Son, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of its Commission for External Relations; and other Kampuchean officials.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Kampuchea Ngo Dien was present.

CPV Economic Delegation Arrives for Tour
*BK220144 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1110 GMT
21 Apr 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK, April 21—A delegation of the Economic Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam arrived in Phnom Penh Tuesday (19 April) for an official friendship tour of Kampuchea.

The delegation led by Che Viet Tan, first deputy-head of the said commission, was warmly greeted on its arrival at Pochentong Airport by Chan Phin, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and head of its Economic Commission; and other Kampuchean officials.

Hun Sen Receives SRV Cultural Delegation
*BK201239 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1104 GMT
20 Apr 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 20—Hun Sen, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in Phnom Penh Tuesday [19 April] the visiting delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture led by Minister Tran Van Phac.

Chairman Hun Sen informed his Vietnamese guests of the Kampuchean people's all-round achievement in national construction, especially in national culture which, he said, is being revived and developed although it was severely destroyed under the genocidal regime of Pol Pot.

He deeply thanked the party, government and the fraternal people of Vietnam for their support and assistance to the Kampuchean people in national defence and construction particularly in rebuilding and promoting the Khmer culture.

In reply, Tran Van Phac, who is also member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, highly valued the considerable development recorded by the Kampuchean people over the past nine years. He expressed his conviction that the relations between the two countries, especially the cultural cooperation, will be further consolidated and developed.

He voiced total support for the PRK's policy of national reconciliation and its proposals for a political solution to the Kampuchean issue, considering them as the principal foundation for solving the Kampuchea conflict. He extolled the high sense of responsibility shown by the PRK's Government for the destiny of the Kampuchean people.

Leaders Meet With Outgoing Indian Envoy

Heng Samrin Receives Envoy
*BK201249 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1108 GMT
20 Apr 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 20—Indian Charge d'Affaires to Kampuchea A.K. Pandey paid a farewell visit to President of the State Council Heng Samrin Wednesday [20 April] morning before leaving for home for another assignment.

Speaking to his guest, President Heng Samrin, who is also general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, highly valued the Indian diplomat's important contributions to consolidating and developing the Kampuchean-Indian ties during his term of office in Kampuchea. The Kampuchean leader expressed profound thanks to the Indian Government and people for their support and assistance to the Kampuchean people in national revival and development.

President Heng Samrin asked A.K. Pandey to convey his regards to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In his reply, the Indian charge d'affaires highly appreciated Kampuchea's all-round development over the past nine years, particularly in carrying out the first five-year program for socio-economic rehabilitation and development. He voiced full support for the PRK's policy of national reconciliation and its six-point proposal for an equitable solution to the Kampuchea problem.

Hun Sen Praises Envoy
*BK210718 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Apr 88*

[Text] On the morning of 20 April at the office of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister, cordially received A.K. Pandey, charge d'affaires of the Republic of India to Cambodia, at the end of his diplomatic mission in Cambodia.

On this occasion, Comrade Hun Sen highly valued the efforts of A.K. Pandey in his diplomatic mission in Cambodia, which have further strengthened and expanded the relations of friendship between the governments and people of the two countries, Cambodia and India, and contributed to the struggle for peace and

stability in Asia and the world. Comrade Hun Sen also expressed profound thanks to the Indian Government for assisting and supporting the Cambodian people, who are working to break the deadlock which has dragged on for the past 9 years, on a path toward an appropriate political solution to the Cambodian problem and the issue of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Through A.K. Pandey, Comrade Hun Sen also conveyed his greetings to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and expressed the firm hope that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened.

Replying, A.K. Pandey affirmed the support of the Indian Government and people for the talks between Comrade Hun Sen and Samdech Sihanouk, considering them as an important development for future talks aimed at finding a political solution to the Cambodian problem. A.K. Pandey also expressed profound thanks to the Cambodian party, Government, and people for creating conditions for him to successfully carry out his diplomatic mission in Cambodia.

Station Feature on 1988 Farm Production
BK160640 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 2300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Station feature: "Pay Attention to Vigorously Accelerating the 1988 Season's Production Work"]

[Text] The year 1987 has passed. Rice production in 1987 encountered a strange natural phenomenon, a protracted drought from the beginning of the season to the end of July, causing difficulties for the 1987 rice production efforts and making it necessary to extend the planting period to late October. The result of the 1987 monsoon season was just a little more than 73 percent of plan, that is, some 191,700 hectares less than the 1986 monsoon figure. We also planted 80,300 hectares of subsidiary food crops or over 75 percent of the annual plan—if compared with the previous year, a shortfall of 2,130 hectares. At the same time, we managed to grow 42,000 hectares of industrial crops or 69 percent of the annual plan—an increase of more than 3,270 hectares over the 1986 figure. Pepper—a long-term industrial crop—alone was grown on more than 108 percent of the 97-hectare plan. Regarding the 1987-1988 dry season production campaign, we managed to grow crops on more than 115,220 hectares or 72 percent of the 160,000-hectare plan. Compared with the 1986-87 dry season figure, this is an increase of more than 8,270 hectares.

Although we achieved this much in 1987, we still lost over 49,660 hectares of transplanted land due to natural calamities and insects. For instance, in both the monsoon and dry seasons, the whole country succeeded in growing only a little more than 74 percent of plan. This means that, according to an estimate of the Cambodian people's food needs, this year the whole country may be short 156,000 metric tons of rice.

Generally speaking, 1987 rice production was much lower than in the prewar years and did not meet the targets of the party's first 5-year socioeconomic restoration and development plan, which stipulates that we must strive to achieve an average annual production growth of 7 percent. Therefore, the 1988 task is extremely heavy as far as the agricultural field is concerned, and it is imperative to keep in mind that 1988 is the key year for us to advance toward realizing the first 1986-90 5-year socioeconomic restoration and development plan defined by the fifth party congress.

In 1988, we must grow as many as 1.96 million hectares of rice with a yield of 2.6 million metric tonnes, and we must also fulfill the targets set for short-term subsidiary food and industrial crops. Therefore, to meet the above-mentioned goals and targets, all echelons and sectors under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture—at the central as well as provincial, municipal, district, and village levels—must take necessary and important measures to provide guidance for concrete and effective implementation that will produce great results. This means paying attention to restoring fallow fields and orchards to meet the targets that the party and state have set; that is, 30,500 hectares. In this endeavor, primary attention should be paid to reclaiming the land for floating rice. At the same time, efforts should be made to vigorously accelerate the multi-cropping rice campaign. Areas destined for multi-cropping should be kept under firm control and short-term, high-yielding seeds be made available. Conditions for sowing and transplanting should be created early in the season and sufficient water conserved for maximum use during the initial transplanting process. At the same time, to facilitate success in multi-cropping, the use of fertilizer, especially natural fertilizer in combination with chemical fertilizer, must be taken into consideration to help ensure high yield and soil protection.

Moreover, efforts should be made to accelerate intensive cropping, particularly to set up intensive cropping areas. Pay close attention to accelerating the movement of plowing by tractor to save time and bring about greater efficiency. This plowing process should be applied on land for floating rice and reclaimed land. As the first step, the localities must clearly specify areas for collective plowing and organize thorough and effective management, use, and maintenance of state-supplied tractors. Conditions should be created so that fuel and spare parts are constantly available. Along with attention to plowing by tractor, the local authorities must also promote cattle-powered plowing from the first rainfall on, creating favorable conditions as soon as possible and maintaining a balance between the availability of draft animals and the expanse of the land to be plowed. From now until plowing time, cattle must be well taken care of, well fed, and vaccinated against all epidemic diseases to prevent hindrances to plowing work during the production season. Furthermore, it is imperative to accelerate the seeding process wherever seeding can be practiced, or to practice dry-bed seeding or collective seeding wherever possible to get ready for a timely transplanting.

We observed in 1987 that there was a big problem concerning the availability of seedlings and that counter-measures were still limited. Therefore, if we encounter drought again in 1988, the drought-hit regions will certainly experience difficulty in getting sufficient seedlings; if the rains come late, we must organize direct planting, or broadcast, of the seeds, waiting for the rains to come and the seeds to germinate naturally. Wherever transplanting is possible but manpower is in short demand, a mutual assistance popular movement must be organized. Forces from manpower-rich regions should be dispatched to manpower-short regions to guarantee timely transplanting work. As for the direct leadership and guidance provided by the local authorities at all levels concerning production work, it is a determining factor. In addition, agricultural experts and cadres should participate directly in the same manner as in the campaign launched in 1987, when the Council of Ministers assigned task groups headed by deputy ministers of various ministries to help promote production work in different lowland provinces with satisfactory results.

At the same time, local authorities must pay vigorous attention to the question of water supply, for through the experiences of years past we have observed that the weather has undergone considerable changes and we have encountered shortages from nature almost every year. Therefore, in 1988 it is imperative to strive to accelerate the building and repairing of irrigation projects, maximizing the use of the funds supplied by the state. This year the state is providing much more funds than in any previous year. Efforts must thus be made to proceed in a rapid and timely manner.

Meanwhile, a movement should be launched to encourage the peasantry to make use of primitive tools, such as waterwheels, scoops, buckets, pedals, and so on, and not to rely exclusively on automatic water pumps.

In conclusion, the local authorities must appropriately and effectively implement the advice of the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers, who said on the occasion of the recent closing of the ninth national agricultural conference that to realize the target of producing 2.6 million metric tons of food in 1988 it is imperative to pay attention mainly to three top measures—cultivated land expansion, multiple cropping, and intensive cropping. In other words, the major objectives and tasks from 1988 until 1990—the period of decisive significance determining the victory of the implementation of the fifth party congress resolutions, a period in which the situation has changed from one of all-out attacks to one of attacks and negotiations as the regional and world situation develops in a new direction—are to concentrate on successfully implementing the joint strategic tasks and three revolutionary objectives as well as the first 5-year socioeconomic restoration and development plan set by the fifth party congress, to contribute appropriately to creating worthy achievements in anticipation of the 10th anniversary of the PRK.

Thai Intrusions, Rebel Casualties Reported

*BK201245 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT
20 Apr 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 20—In the week ended on April 2, Thai L-19 and F-5 planes made three spying flights over several Kampuchean border areas including O Bok and Ampil in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

On land, Thai batteries fired some 1,500 artillery rounds a day on several border areas in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey and Battambang Provinces.

In the meantime, Kampuchean border guards in close cooperation with Vietnamese Army volunteers put out of action 257 Khmer reactionaries who were infiltrating from Thailand into Kampuchea for sabotage and piratical activities, including 177 killed, 34 captured and 46 forced to surrender. They also seized 95 assorted guns, 219 mines and a quantity of war means.

Sihanouk Greets Japanese ICK Committee

*BK141216 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Apr 88*

["Text of message from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, to His Excellency Haruo Okada, representative of the Japanese Committee for Organizing the International Conference on Kampuchea, on the occasion of the International Day on Cambodia in Tokyo on 13 April 1988"]

[Text] Your Excellency:

Every year on 13 April, particularly since 1982 when the second International Conference on Kampuchea [ICK] was held, while the Cambodian nation and people are marking their traditional New Year, the Japanese committee for organizing this conference and the Japanese people have held the International Day on Cambodia in order to express their vigorous and firm support for and to give aid to the Cambodian people's struggle against the Vietnamese aggression and occupation.

On the auspicious occasion of this 1988 International Day on Cambodia, which reflects the profound friendship and solidarity of our two peoples, I am very happy and greatly honored to express once again, on behalf of the Cambodian people, the CGDK, and myself, warmest salutations and congratulations as well as sincere wishes for success to your excellency, the important members of the Japanese committee, and all the noble participants.

The holding of this year's International Day on Cambodia is a significant contribution to the favorable development of the struggle waged by the Cambodian resistance forces and people, which is spreading energetically throughout the country and which will certainly drive all the Vietnamese aggressors and occupiers out of Cambodia. The reality which indicates this trend is irrefutable

and generally known. The Vietnamese are facing more serious and inextricable difficulties in all fields in Cambodia, at home, and in the international arena.

Yet, despite such a bad situation, the Hanoi authorities—who are loyal to Ho Chi Minh's desire—have adhered firmly to the Indochinese Federation strategy and have refused to withdraw their troops from Cambodia and solve the Cambodian problem reasonably through political means. The Cambodian problem is definitely not an internal matter; it is a problem caused by the Vietnamese aggression and occupation. It is definitely a problem between Vietnam—the aggressor—and Cambodia—the victim.

While claiming that it supports the trend toward peace talks in Southeast Asia, Vietnam has continuously refused to negotiate with the CGDK on the political settlement of the Cambodian problem. Such an act clearly attests to Vietnam's refusal to respect Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and the Cambodian people's right to freedom.

The Cambodian problem can be resolved only through the total and unconditional withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the dismantling of the Vietnamese-installed puppet regime in Phnom Penh, in order to establish a four-party government in Cambodia. A free, universal election under UN supervision must then be held, through which the Cambodian people will be able to exercise their right to self-determination.

All these principles are defined in the relevant UN resolutions on Cambodia, the statement of the UN-sponsored International Conference on Kampuchea dated July 1981, and the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal dated 17 March 1986. Only by so doing will we be able to genuinely realize national reconciliation without rejecting anyone and without the presence of foreign troops.

By rejecting these reasonable and generally acceptable principles, Vietnam has shown that its repeated claims and proposals are just maneuvers aimed at realizing its design to annex Cambodia through diplomatic means, since it has failed to do so through military means.

Therefore, the Cambodian people and the CGDK have no other alternative but to carry on their struggle, despite all the complex difficulties, in order to salvage their country and people.

Always loyal to their people and motherland, the national resistance forces of the tripartite CGDK will always unite in their joint struggle against the common enemy until they win joint victory; that is, until they can liberate their motherland totally and permanently.

All of us will continuously adhere to and further strengthen our national union, which is significant to the survival of our beloved motherland and rallies all our

forces to defend and rebuild an independent, peaceful, unified, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia pursuing a liberal democratic system within the framework of national reconciliation.

Only by so doing will peace, security, and stability be restored in Southeast Asia, Asia, and the Pacific.

The firm and more vigorous support of the world community—particularly the support and assistance of the friendly Japanese Government, people, and mass organizations—together with the arduous struggle of the Cambodian people have valuably contributed to the unavoidable and irreversible progress of the Cambodian patriotic struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and occupiers.

To help make Vietnam quickly withdraw its troops from Cambodia, on behalf of all Cambodian people, the CGDK, and in my own name, I would like to appeal to the governments of all friendly countries, peoples, and nongovernmental organizations—particularly the Japanese ICK Committee, all its noble members, and all participants in the International Day on Cambodia—to please continue to:

1. Increase all aspects of their valuable support for the Cambodian people's patriotic struggle for national liberation, led by the CGDK;
2. Expose and condemn all of Vietnam's diplomatic maneuvers and deceitful propaganda; and
3. Demand that the Soviet Union suspend aid to Vietnam and make Vietnam withdraw its troops totally and unconditionally from Cambodia, in order to allow the Cambodian people to realize their national reconciliation and to freely exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal.

On behalf of the Cambodian people, the CGDK, and in my own name, I would like once again to express our profound thanks for the firm and vigorous support given us by your excellency—support which not only has contributed to the favorable development of our struggle, but has further strengthened and broadened the friendly relations between our two peoples and countries of Cambodia and Japan.

Please, your excellency, accept my highest regards.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea

Khieu Samphan Sends Message
*BK180308 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Apr 88*

["Message from His Excellency Khieu Samphan, vice president of Democratic Kampuchea in charge of foreign affairs, to the committee for organizing the 1988 International Day on Cambodia in Tokyo"]

[Text] Esteemed president; esteemed ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to express profound thanks to you, the president, ladies and gentlemen, for your efforts in organizing Cambodia Day as you have every year.

This is a proof of your profound sympathy for the Cambodian people, who are struggling for their right to live as a nation with its own national honor, civilization, culture, and history. This is a source of great encouragement for the Cambodian people and the three patriotic forces of the CGDK, headed by Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The developments of the past year clearly attested to the plight of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, who have become bogged down more deeply on the Cambodian battlefield, and the inextricably complicated situation of the Vietnamese leaders in Vietnam itself.

This situation clearly proves that so long as the Vietnamese enemy aggressors stubbornly carry on their war of aggression in Cambodia, they will become more deeply bogged down till they reach an absolutely inextricable point and finally face total defeat. Both Vietnam itself and the Soviet Union are well aware of this situation, but they have stubbornly refused to settle the Cambodian problem through political means.

1. The Hanoi leaders have adhered to their strategies of an Indochinese Federation and regional expansion.

2. The Soviet Union has continued to support the Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia. The Soviet Union has done this because Vietnam's Indochinese Federation strategy is in accord with the Soviet strategy for Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, within the framework of its global strategy. This strategy has a clear goal and aims particularly at dominating the transportation passages through the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait through the use of its currently-controlled Cam Ranh and Danang bases in Vietnam.

However, the Cambodian problem does not depend on whether the Soviet Union and Vietnam do or do not want to solve it. We are convinced that with the international forces continuing to pressure Vietnam more vigorously and firmly, together with the Cambodian people's forces conducting resistance on the battlefield, it is certain that we will be able to conquer the Vietnamese-Soviet strategies of aggression and expansion.

On this occasion, I would like once again to express profound thanks to you, the president, ladies and gentlemen, for giving continuous and firm support through your physical and moral efforts to our Cambodian people's struggle during the past nearly 10 years.

We will never forget your profound sympathy for our Cambodian people, who are victims of this cruel aggression.

Our experiences gained in the past and at present clearly indicate that at a time when the two global strategies are competing and will keep on competing unendingly and when the geographical situation in Southeast Asia, Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region is currently very complicated and will become even more complicated in the future, it is difficult for our small Cambodia to exist peacefully and independently.

In the future, even after the Vietnamese aggressor forces are compelled to withdraw from Cambodia, the danger of Vietnam attempting to annex Cambodia will remain permanently by the doors of Cambodia. In such a situation, despite all the complicated problems, all Cambodian patriots must successfully implement the policy of national union so that Cambodia will have sufficient forces for national liberation at the present time and for national defense in the future. Even though we have the great national union, it is not certain that Cambodia will be able to fully defend itself. To be able to defend itself, Cambodia needs both the great national union and the broad support and assistance from the world.

Therefore, the only way out for Cambodia and for all the Cambodian resistance forces is:

1. Inside the country: despite all the complicated problems, to strive to fully realize the policy of great national union;

2. Outside the country: to have good relations with all countries in the world.

Any other way than this will only cause Cambodia to be automatically annexed by Vietnam and not by any other country.

We are convinced that the great national union of Cambodia that has grown and developed continuously during the past nearly 10 years will continue to grow and develop constantly.

I hope that all the reasons [regarding our struggle] that we had informed you about successively, particularly during the third International Conference on Kampuchea, held in Bangkok in July 1987, are worthy of your trust in the Cambodian people's just struggle. Therefore, we would like to call on all ladies and gentlemen to please continue to appeal to your governments and the whole world to further pressure the Vietnamese aggressors until they agree to solve the Cambodian problem politically by withdrawing all their aggressor troops from Cambodia.

and respecting the Cambodian people's right to self-determination, thus enabling Cambodia to regain its status as an independent, unified, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned nation that has no foreign troops stationed in its territory.

Only then will both the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples be able to enjoy peace; will there be a balance of forces which may ensure peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region; and will the source of a dangerous tension in this region and the world be quelled.

In conclusion, I would like to extend best wishes for total success to the 1988 International Day on Cambodia. This success will certainly give great encouragement to the Cambodian people and the combatants of the three patriotic Cambodian forces in continuing their national liberation struggle under the leadership of the CGDK, headed by Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, and will help to more vigorously and broadly mobilize the international forces supporting the Cambodian people's struggle.

[Dated] Democratic Kampuchea, 12 April 1988

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, vice president of Democratic Kampuchea in charge of foreign affairs

6 SRV Soldiers Killed in Siem Reap Revolt
BK210201 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodia 2315 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] On 3 April, the Vietnamese enemy gathered two battalions to plunder our people's paddy and rice in Chey Sbo and Kbiek villages in Kouk Dong commune, Varin District, Siem Reap Province.

Our people united, however, and in cooperation with our National Army brandished knives, axes, and sticks and chased the Vietnamese bandits away. Our people killed six Vietnamese enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded nine others. A rifle and 600 rounds of ammunition were seized and given to village militiamen to defend the locality. [passage omitted]

5 SRV Supervisors Killed During Dispute
BK220148 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodia 2315 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] On 10 April, Vietnamese supervisors in Bakan District and Vietnamese provincial police supervisors from Pursat Province quarreled and lobbed hand grenades at each other during a party after a meeting. Five Vietnamese supervisors were killed in the dispute, including a provincial police supervisor, a district supervisor in charge of handicrafts, a district military official, and two other district supervisors. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Siem Reap Returnees

Phnom Penh, 15 Apr (SPK)—In the first quarter of this year, 586 people misguided by the enemy propaganda dissociated themselves from the enemy ranks and returned to the revolutionary administration in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh, bringing along 486 assorted guns and a quantity of war ammunition. The returnees included 241 ex-Polpotists, 218 ex-Molinakans (Sihanoukists) and 127 ex-Sereikans (Sonsannians). They have been given full right of citizenship and necessities to embark on a new life with their families. [Text] [BK151216 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1113 GMT 15 Apr 88]

Language Study in SRV

Phnom Penh, 15 Apr (SPK)—The University of Ho Chi Minh City recently organized a graduation ceremony for 39 Cambodian students in the Vietnamese language department. This is the fourth group of students attending a refresher course on the Vietnamese language opened to Cambodian students. Thirteen Cambodian cadres and students recently finished a 3-year course (1985-1988) at the meteorology-hydrology school of south Vietnam. Since 1980, 359 of the 748 Cambodian students training in Ho Chi Minh City have graduated. [Text] [BK150742 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0429 GMT 15 Apr 88]

Indonesia

Foreign Minister Denies PRC Trade Ties
BK220930 Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stated in Jakarta yesterday that the recent report on the opening of both Indonesian and China's trade offices in Jakarta and Beijing were groundless and speculative. Speaking to newsmen after reporting to President Suharto, the minister said the report may only be a feeler. Minister Ali Alatas met President Suharto to report on the completion of a 44th annual session of the ESCAP in Jakarta and his plan to depart for New York today.

While in New York he will be saying farewell to the UN Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar. Before the appointment to his current post, Ali Alatas was the Indonesian ambassador to the UN. From New York he will continue his trip to Dusseldorf, West Germany, to attend an ASEAN-EC annual meeting.

Papers View Normalizing Relations With PRC
BK221318 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English
15 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Defreezing Diplomatic Relations With China"]

[Text] The Republic of Indonesia and the People's Republic of China still have diplomatic relations, but frozen since October 1967, following the abortive G-30S/PKI [30 September Movement/Indonesian Communist Party] coup in 1965 in which the Indonesian people and government believe that the government of China of that time was involved. In spite of that, diplomatic relations and cooperation between the two countries are still conducted on international forum level like the United Nations and its agencies, and direct trade has been resumed since 1985.

Of late there has been effort from Indonesia's friends, both from the Western as well as the Eastern camps, to persuade Indonesia to normalize its relations with China.

Reacting to this persuasion, President Suharto in his accountability speech before the MPR [People's Consultative Assembly] on March 1, reiterated once more that Indonesia still linked the normalisation of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China with the confirmation of its stand not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries—particularly Indonesia—by helping remnants of communist elements in the countries concerned.

In the past we had heard statements on behalf of Beijing that the Chinese Government did not give help to the underground communist movements in South East Asia but did not deny the Chinese Communist Party's support to them.

Now, the deputy foreign minister of China and chief of the Chinese delegation to the 44th Session of ESCAP, Liu Shuqing, in his meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas last Saturday expressed the hope of his government for normalisation of diplomatic relations between China and Indonesia. He said that as far as Beijing was concerned, there were no problems for the resumption of friendly relations between the two countries and in the interest of peace, friendship, and cooperation in this part of the world.

As far as the condition mentioned by President Suharto in his accountability speech, Liu Shuqing said that most of the Indonesian people that came to China in the '60s have left the country and only elderly people and pensioners as well as those employed at different universities as experts or professors remain in China. And the present Chinese Government forbids the Indonesians living in China to engage in any act which may harm the good relations between China and Indonesia.

We are of the opinion that the Chinese deputy foreign minister's statement has come at least much nearer to the condition set by President Suharto. But more discussions on foreign minister level will be needed and perhaps firmer formal commitment from Beijing. Meanwhile internally all the government agencies concerned will have to be properly consulted so that the de-freezing can be done in an opportune time. Also the Chinese Communist Party's support to the underground communist movements will have to be made clear.

But with regards to the statement that the government of China of that time did not know anything about the attempted coup until after some time, we beg to disagree because as far as we know, one day after the coup, the Chinese Government in Beijing called all Indonesian leaders who had been previously invited to Beijing and informed of the formation of a new government in Jakarta and asked them to sign a declaration of support.

PRC Minister's Interview Noted
BK210811 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN
in Indonesian 13 Apr 88 p 6

[Editorial: "PRC Deputy Foreign Minister's Response to President Suharto's speech"]

[Text] Everybody is aware that the diplomatic relations between Indonesia and the PRC—two Asian countries which will play a greater future role in Asia and the world—will be normalized at the appropriate time. Such an appropriate time depends on the efforts to cope with certain factors considered to be obstructing the normalization of diplomatic ties.

In his speech before the plenary session of the People's Consultative Assembly on 1 March 1988, President Suharto said: "As for relations with the PRC in particular, I can stress once again that a normalization of diplomatic relations still depends on the PRC's confirmation that it will not interfere in other countries' internal affairs, especially Indonesia's, by supporting communist remnants in such countries."

PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing seemed to have capitalized on his presence at the 44th session of the ESCAP in Jakarta to respond to the president's speech through an interview he gave to the correspondents of ANTARA and KOMPAS.

In Indonesia, there is still a strong and widespread belief that the PRC was either directly or indirectly involved in the events surrounding the G-30-S/PKI [30 September Movement/Indonesian Communist Party] coup attempt in 1965. In this connection, what was often mentioned was the PRC's offer to provide arms to the so-called "Fifth Service"—an armed force independent from the existing Indonesian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Police Force. Nobody was sure whether or not it was just a coincidence, but if the G-30-S/PKI coup attempt had

been successful, a PKI-dominated government would have been established in Jakarta on 1 October 1965, which happened to be the PRC's national day.

There are also reports circulating in Jakarta that PKI's exiled leaders are still living in Beijing. They are even reported to be receiving special treatment and facilities from the PRC Government and the CPC. These reports have given the strong impression that the PRC Government and the CPC are still assisting PKI remnants living in that country. If such is the case, the logical conclusion will be that PKI remnants in Indonesia will also receive similar assistance once the PRC opens its embassy in Jakarta. The PRC Government's clarification that it will not interfere in Indonesia's internal affairs, while the CPC is free to assist PKI remnants based on the spirit of solidarity among the world's communist parties, has obviously failed to boost the Indonesian people's enthusiasm in expediting any normalization of diplomatic ties with the PRC.

In his interview, Liu Shuqing made it clear that the PRC does not want to interfere in other countries' internal affairs. It does not want other countries to interfere in its internal affairs, either. He stressed that Beijing learned about the G-30-S/PKI coup attempt only after the incident had taken place and that the PRC neither knew about nor was involved in the coup attempt. He also urged us to forget the events which took place more than 20 years ago. He stressed that the PRC will never use the CPC to instigate troubles in other countries. The issue of communism is each country's own problem. As for Indonesians living in the PRC, he said that they consist of ordinary elderly people who, after being given asylum, are barred from engaging in political activities.

It will not be easy to convince us in Indonesia that the PRC or CPC was not involved in the G-30-S/PKI coup attempt in view of the close relations between the PKI and PRC at that time. However, what is most important to us is the future attitude adopted by the PRC and CPC toward the remnants of PKI and other communist parties in other ASEAN countries. Has Liu Shuqing's clarification fulfilled the requirement set by President Suharto in his speech on 1 March? Shall we require more detailed and formal clarification? These are things which need further scrutiny.

We can use the solution to the Cambodian problem as a test case [preceding two words in English] of the PRC's stand toward Southeast Asia. There is now a kind of shuttle game between the PRC and the Soviet Union as far as the Cambodian problem is concerned. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said the key to the solution of the Cambodian problem lies in the hands of Vietnam and the PRC, while Liu Shuqing contended that the key is in the hands of Vietnam and the Soviet Union. We believe that the PRC, Vietnam, and the

Soviet Union all have an important part to play in solving the conflict. The same is true with the warring factions in Cambodia. As for ASEAN, it has only a small role to play.

Will the appropriate time for normalization of diplomatic relations with the PRC emerge only after the Cambodian problem has been solved? Or, will such normalization enable us to improve our maneuvering and give our greatest contribution in the form of a solution to the Cambodian problem, which is acceptable to the Cambodian factions, Vietnam, the PRC, the Soviet Union, and all ASEAN countries?

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nicaragua
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0700 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] As of today, the Republic of Indonesia and Nicaragua have officially established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with the accreditation of their respective non-resident ambassadors.

According to a news release by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta, the joint communique released simultaneously in Jakarta and Managua states that the two countries have established diplomatic relations because they want to promote friendly relations. The establishment of diplomatic relations is also aimed at developing cooperation between the two countries in accordance with the goals and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms governing the Nonaligned Movement—the principles of equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Australian Defense Cooperation Formally Ends
BK221316 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English
16 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] The defence cooperation between Indonesia and Australia which began in 1972 formally ended on March 31. This was officially mentioned in the talks conducted between the Chief of Staff (General Affairs) of the Armed Forces Vice Admiral Sudibyo Raharjo and First Assistant Secretary, Strategic and International Policy Division of the Australian Ministry of Defence, Ross Cottrill, here on April 12.

The Armed Forces Information Centre said in the meeting, the two sides had also discussed matters and the possibility of the forms of future cooperation between the Indonesian and Australian Armed Forces.

They will be based on the principles of non-institutions (not institutionalized, Ed.) and mutual respect.

Ex-Detainee Applies To Set Up Political Party
BK220931 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian
9 Apr 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Padang, 9 April—West Sumatera Governor Hasan Basri Durin says that a request by former G-30-S/PKI [30 September Movement/Indonesian Communist Party] detainee M. Siradj Maris to the chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly and the home affairs minister for permission to set up a new political party based on Pancasila to accomodate former members of PKI, Partindo [Indonesian Party], and PNI-Asu [Indonesian Nationalist Party under the leadership of Ali Sastroamijoyo and Surahman] is in fact motivated by economic difficulties. The former detainee also called for the government's attention to his status as a discharged civil servant.

The disclosure, read by Deputy Governor Syurkani at a West Sumatera Regional Legislative Assembly session in Padang on 5 April, was in response to a query submitted by Assemblyman Zainul Arifin Lies. The session was being held to discuss the province's 1988-89 budget.

The governor added that the authorities had interrogated Siradj Maris and his fellow former detainees, all of whom were classified as "C" category detainees. During the interrogation, Siradj Maris and his friends came to realize their fault and agreed to withdraw the 5 September 1987 letter requesting permission to set up a new political party. The governor noted that the authorities continue to carry out intensive supervision and indoctrination on Siradj Maris and other former detainees. He also agreed with the assemblyman that it is necessary to intensify vigilance on the potential communist threat. [passage omitted]

Laos

'Press Release' on SPC Extraordinary Session
BK211330 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 20 Apr 88

["Press release on success of the 1988 extraordinary session of the Supreme People's Council"—dated 19 April 1988]

[Text] At a time when the multiethnic Lao people throughout the country are emulating with one another to translate into reality the decisions of the fourth party congress and the fifth resolution adopted by the party Central Committee, aimed at profoundly effecting new changes in our thinking—especially in the economic field and the modification of the economic management mechanisms—the extraordinary session of the SPC has been officially and majestically convened in Vientiane under the chairmanship of Sisomphon Lovansai, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman and acting chairman of the SPC of the LPDR.

The session profoundly and scrupulously heard, studied, and discussed in detail a number of important pieces of legislation enacted by our state with a view to developing and promoting socialist democracy; ensuring the people's right to self-mastery in organizing and implementing the party and state's line and policies; guaranteeing fulfillment of the two strategic tasks; consolidating state organizations so that they will be genuinely of the people, by the people, and for the people; and, at the same time, reorganizing party, state, and mass organizations to become less complicated yet remain efficient. The most important thing was to consolidate the popular democratic system under the party leadership, in order to become firm at all levels.

Due to the importance of the aforementioned issues, and relying on the proposals made by the SPC Standing Committee and by certain SPC members concerned, the session unanimously passed and endorsed a number of important laws and regulations as follows:

1. The law on election of the people's representatives;
2. The law on the SPC of the LPDR;
3. The resolution on amendment of Legislation No 101/SPC dated 31 July 1978 on the setting up people's councils and people's administrative councils;
4. The regulations on (?the representatives) of the SPC;
5. The act on foreign investments in the LPDR.

In addition, the session also expressed satisfaction on the successes scored by the SPC in the past, especially in fulfilling the spirit of the national congress of the people's representatives convened on 2 December 1975 and in translating the spirit of the fourth party congress into objective law.

Henceforth, the multiethnic Lao people are requested to pay attention to positively studying and appreciating these legislative acts, especially the law on the election of people's representatives, which is related to the rights and responsibilities of the multiethnic citizens of Laos throughout the country who will be entitled to exercise their rights in accordance with the law. They must upgrade the spirit of this legislation in a uniform manner so that they will become the consolidated strength for the fulfillment of the two strategic tasks, that is, to successfully defend the country and to build socialism.

The session closed with brilliant success at 1700 on 19 April 1988.

[Dated] Vientiane, 19 April 1988

[Signed] The SPC

Hanoi-Vientiane Administrative Talks Held

BK191217 Vientiane KPL in English
0915 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Vientiane, April 19 (OANA-KPL)—Talks between Vientiane and Hanoi delegations of the parties and administrations were held here on April 18.

The Lao delegation was led by Sisavat Keobounphan, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, secretary of the party and mayor of Vientiane and the Vietnamese delegation was headed by Nguyen Thanh Binh, Politburo member of the CPV CC, Hanoi party secretary.

The sides took turns to inform each other about the situation in their capitals.

Short and long-term cooperation orientations between economic units were discussed in the spirit of special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation.

The delegation of Hanoi arrived here on April 16. It will pay a six-day friendship visit to Vientiane in response to the invitation of the Vientiane Party Committee and administration.

Protocols Signed

BK221140 Vientiane KPL in English
0950 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Vientiane, April 22 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers met here on April 21 a delegation of Hanoi party and administration.

The delegation is led by Nguyen Thanh Binh, Politburo member of the CPV CC, secretary of the Hanoi party committee.

Nguyen Thanh Binh informed Kaysone Phomvihane about the success of the visit which he qualified as a factor helping to strengthen mutual understanding and comprehensive cooperation between capitals of the two countries in the future.

Kaysone Phomvihane, on the other hand, highly valued multifaceted cooperation and assistance rendered to Vientiane by Hanoi in the past. He expressed hope that the bilateral cooperation and assistance between Vientiane and Hanoi will be more effectively strengthened.

Cooperation programme protocols for 1988, economic and cultural cooperation from now till 1990 were signed here on the same day.

According to the protocols, the sides agreed to raise the efficiency of their political, economic and cultural cooperation ties on the basis of socialist cost accounting when it comes to economic matters.

Accompanying the delegation were General Sisavat Keobounphan, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, secretary of the party CC, mayor of Vientiane, and Nguyen Xuan, ambassador of the SRV.

'Statement' on Indochina Health Conference

BK201118 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 19 Apr 88

["Statement on the Fourth Conference of Public Health Ministers of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos"—date not given]

[Text] The fourth conference of the public health ministers of the three countries—Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos—was held in Vientiane from 11 to 14 April. Attending the conference were Dr Yit Kimseng, minister of public health of the PRK; Prof Dang Hoi Xuan, minister of public health of the SRV; and Dr Khamliang Phonsena, minister of public health of the LPDR.

The delegates to the conference were accorded the great honor of paying a courtesy call on Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and acting president of the LPDR.

Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign affairs minister, also attended the opening ceremony of the fourth health conference of the three countries.

1. The three ministers informed one another on the outcome of the implementation of decisions adopted at the third conference. They also consulted with one another and exchanged extensive views on the topic to be discussed at the fourth conference, entitled: Sanitation against contagious diseases and for mother and child care.

The three ministers hailed progress made by the PRK, the SRV, and the LPDR in fulfilling the tasks outlined by the third conference and regarded such successes as the basis for further development of public health work.

2. The three ministers reached unanimity on the following issues aimed at enhancing and coordinating the implementation of the decisions adopted at the fourth conference:

(1) to concentrate efforts on strengthening public relations work and popular sanitation by utilizing all existing means to promote environmental health work and three-cleanliness work and to prevent and eradicate contagious diseases for mother and child care;

(2) to continue efforts on consolidating and raising the standards of major sanitation projects of specific nature, for example, the projects to provide inoculations

against diarrhea, diseases affecting the respiratory system, malaria, hemorrhagic fever, tuberculosis, leprosy, and other diseases, as well as the project to provide mother and child care and family planning;

(3) to enact a public health law on the prevention and eradication of contagious diseases and for mother and child care and for promotion of hygienic work, nutrition, and environment;

(4) to train grass-roots public health cadres who have capabilities in political and educational knowledge and techniques;

(5) to jointly map out and approve the program of action for promoting the use of social studies techniques;

(6) to combine efforts in acquiring international funds for enforcing and translating into the reality the aforementioned objectives.

3. Recognizing that the issues on the health of mankind are closely linked to environmental health and the regional peace situation, in order to safeguard and maintain civilization and promote mutual understanding and harmony among the countries in the Asia-Pacific region the three ministers strongly condemned all designs leading to military confrontation and armed clashes as the means to settle international conflicts. For this reason, the three ministers voiced complete support for the peace proposals and initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union aimed at transforming the Asia-Pacific region into a nuclear-free zone and a zone of peace and international cooperation.

They voiced complete support for the just and correct stand of the LPDR Government in settling the Lao-Thai border conflict in the area of Na Banoi Canton, Boten District, the LPDR's Sayaboury Province, through peaceful negotiations.

They voiced firm support for the just and correct stand of the SRV Government in settling the conflicts occurring in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago, the Vietnamese-Chinese border, and the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Islands as stated in the SRV Government's 17 and 23 March 1988 statements and the SRV Foreign Ministry's 25 March 1988 statement.

The three ministers voiced support for the just and correct stand of the PRK Government on peaceful settlement of the Cambodian problem through negotiations in conformity with the political line of national reconciliation. They also highly valued the outcome of the meetings between Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and expressed hope that the two sides will continue holding political negotiations aimed at appropriately and permanently settling the Cambodian problem, thereby contributing to the cause of safeguarding peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

4. The three ministers unanimously agreed to select Phnom Penh as the site for convening the fifth conference in 1991, under the fundamental topic entitled: The role of district-level hospitals in basic sanitation and the management of nutrition. The fixed date and time of the fifth conference will be mutually agreed upon later.

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives Cuban Delegation
BK201056 Vientiane KPL in English
0912 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL)—Phoumi Vongvichit, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, acting president of the republic received here yesterday morning a Cuban delegation led by Mrs. Eva Seoane, vice President of the Cuban Organization for Friendship With Other Nations.

The acting president welcomed and thanked the delegation for its visit to Laos which he qualified as a contribution to the consolidation of the relations of fraternal friendship between Laos and Cuba.

Phoumi Vongvichit also expressed appreciation for the Cuban Government's assistance to Laos. He wished the Cuban delegation success in its visit to Laos.

Issues on consolidating the mutual cooperation and assistance between the two countries were also raised at the talks.

Also present at the talk were Khambou Sounisai, president of the Lao-Cuban Friendship Association and Jose Manuel Garcia Torres, ambassador of the Cuban Republic to the Lao PDR.

Cuban Delegation Departs
BK221224 Vientiane KPL in English
0958 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Vientiane, April 22 (KPL)—The Cuban delegation for friendship led by Mrs. Eva Seoane, vice-president of the Cuban Organization for Friendship With Other Nations, on April 21 returned home, ending its eight-day visit to Laos.

The Cuban delegation and the officials of the Lao-Cuban Friendship Association, held talks and signed an agreement for cooperation between the two associations. The delegation also celebrated the traditional Lao New Year and toured some production bases in Vientiane capital.

Khambou Sounisai, president of the Lao-Cuban Friendship Association was present at the airport to see the delegation off.

Jose Manuel Garcia Torres, ambassador of the Cuban Republic to the Lao PDR was also present on the occasion.

'Communique' Issued on Thai Students Visit
BK211115 Vientiane KPL in English
0916 GMT 21 Apr 88

[**"Joint Communique Between Students of T.T.C. and Ramkhamhaeng University"**—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, April 21 (KPL)—Following the cordial visit to Laos by the delegation of "Youth Group for Peace" from [Thailand's] Ramkhamhaeng University, the representatives of the Lao Teacher's Training College [TTC] and the visiting Thai delegation issued here on April 18, 1988 a joint communique.

The joint communique stated: "Through the long history of mankind, the world has seen thousands of wars which caused serious loss in terms of life, properties and lofty cultural heritage cultivated for many years by our ancestors.

"The First and Second World Wars have shown that if man does not destroy wars, wars will destroy him.

"[In] the present epoch of civilization and technical-scientific progress, mankind still encounters wars, misery and famine—the result of the use of their achievements in the arms race and annihilating wars.

"The students of the Teacher's Training College and the representatives of Ramkhamhaeng University students from the Kingdom of Thailand expressed their profound concern over the complex, fierce and dangerous situation created by ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} forces."

"We express our concern over the Iraq-Iran war, the aggression and annexation by Israel in Arab land, Pretoria's escalation of oppression against African patriots, the arms race," the communique added.

The communique expressed solidarity and support with the struggle for peace and social progress, against any warmongering forces and foreign intervention and aggression in the world.

The representatives of the two learning institutes completely supported the Soviet-American summit meeting and the INF treaty.

"Considering the development of the Lao-Thai friendly and neighbourly relations as imperative and an important factor for peace in the region and the world, we completely support the cease-fire agreement between Lao and Thai military signed on February 17, 1988, which has paved the way for the peaceful settlement of the territorial conflict in the area between Lao Boten and Thai Chat Trakan District."

The communique carried on:

"We are for early resumption of the talks by the Lao and Thai governmental delegations to solve pending problems. The talks must be based on justice, strict observance of the 1907 Franco-Siamese Treaty, the 1979 Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao joint communiques and for the interests of the peoples of Laos and Thailand. This measure meets the aspiration of both peoples and is suitable for peaceful trend of the epoch," the communique continued.

"We will strive to improve and consolidate the friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and Thailand, to transform the Lao-Thai border into a border of genuine peace, friendship and cooperation, to promote the peaceful and mutual understanding atmosphere between the Lao and Thai peoples who share the same kin blood. Meanwhile, we strive to foil any act which runs counter to the Lao-Thai friendly spirit," the communique concluded.

The signatories were the Lao T.T.C. Students' Somphou Douangsavan, secretary of the T.T.C. Students, and the Thai students delegation's Sombun Chacwana, head of the Youth Group for Peace from Ramkhamhaeng University.

Trade, Aid Protocols With Mongolia Signed
BK201039 Vientiane KPL in English
0908 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL)—Two protocols on goods exchange and clearing and on gratis aid for 1988 were signed here yesterday between the People's Republic of Mongolia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The protocol on goods exchange and clearing stipulates that the Lao side will provide Mongolia with coffee beans, timber products and plywood. In return, Mongolia will provide Laos with carpets, wool and others. The volume of the goods exchange for 1988 rises some 15 per cent as compared to that of 1987.

Concerning the gratis aid, Mongolia will continue to give assistance to Laos in training Lao cadres there. Mongolian experts will come to Laos and work at the 60-bed hospital in Phonsavan District and livestock farm in Xieng Khouang Province. Medicines, medical and mechanical equipment will also be supplied to the two projects by Mongolia.

The signatories were the Lao side Chanpheng Bounnaphon, deputy minister of trade, Soulima Bounleut, vice-chairman of the State Planning Committee and, the Mongolian side Nadmidyn Bavuu, deputy minister of foreign economic relations and material supply of the People's Republic of Mongolia.

Vanthong Sengmuang, minister of trade of the Lao PDR, Yadmaagiyn Dashnyam, Mongolian ambassador to Laos, and some Lao and Mongolian officials were also present at the signing ceremony.

PASASON Editorial Greet New Year
BK190709 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 16 Apr 88

[PASASON 16 April editorial: "Continue To Translate Into Reality the Contents of New Changes of the Party in the New Year"]

[Text] The old Year of the Rabbit for the Buddhist Era 2530 has just passed, and the new Year of the Dragon for the Buddhist Era has now begun. The celebration of the New Year is being held at a time when our people throughout the country are competing with one another to translate into reality the fifth resolution adopted by the fourth party Central Committee. They are implementing the 1988 state plan on the basis of enhancing the achievements scored and with their determination to resolutely rectify the weak points and shortcomings witnessed in 1987, aimed at turning this year into a year full of firm victories.

Under the talented and clear-sighted leadership of the LPRP, with a sense of lofty revolutionary perseverance, with a sense of undauntedness and persistence, daring to take the initiative, and exploiting all potentials in our country, in the past year our people have managed not only to securely safeguard the fruits of the revolution but also to further enhance our revolutionary roles, thus creating a basis for advancement in years to come. These achievements have been testified to by the fact that the national situation in all fields continued to positively develop along the path we have chosen and to become more and more tranquil. New steps of development based on the switch to new thinking, such as the thinking on economic management mechanisms, have emerged in several spheres of work and many localities.

The most outstanding development of special significance occurring in the past year was a phenomenon in which our entire party, Army, and people—the combatants and people in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, in particular—managed to smash the aggressive designs implemented by the ultrarightist reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles. They deployed more than 15,000 soldiers supported by warplanes, artillery pieces, and chemical weapons to launch nibbling attacks against our country for more than 60 consecutive days with the hope of seizing our territory west of Na Banoi Canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. [Words indistinct] thereby compelling them to accept a proposal to hold negotiations to settle the conflict in accordance with the consistent views of our party, state, and people, which are in conformity with the overall trend in this region and the world.

Another proud achievement we have scored was our successful attempt to reorient business production by switching from the state-financed bureaucratic mechanisms to the socialist business accounting mechanisms. So far, of the 377 state economic enterprises throughout the country, 186 have switched to the socialist business

accounting system. Several grass-roots foundations have also done likewise. As a result, business productivity in general—such as work productivity, business revenues, payment of taxes to the state coffers, and salaries for workers and state employees—is apparently improving. In addition, a number of new essential products have also been turned out to meet the needs of society, thereby contributing to creating more state revenues; increasing income sources for state budgets; increasing goods sources; stabilizing our monetary unit and prices; and gradually improving the living conditions of cadres, workers, and state employees.

Looking back over the path we have traversed together in the past year, we are very proud to realize that all the victories we have scored are closely linked to the revolutionary movements and creativeness of our multiethnic people of all strata and to the growth and development of the contingent of cadres and party members at all levels and in all services in guiding and organizing the implementation of the party's line and policies. At the same time, we have also realized that these victories have testified to the correctness of our party's views on socialist transformation, as well as its talented leadership. On this basis, in the coming years under the party's revolutionary banner and with the determination of the entire party, Army, and people, it is certain that we will proceed to score new and greater victories, thus realizing the contents of the new changes outlined by the party.

On the occasion of the beginning of the new year, we would like to extend out best wishes to our multiethnic compatriots of all strata. We wish you happiness and prosperity in carrying out your work.

Briefs

GDR Cooperation Agreement

Vientiane, April 12 (KPL)—A plan for cultural and scientific cooperation for the period of 1988-1990 between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and of the German Democratic Republic was signed at the Lao Foreign Ministry on April 11. The document covers bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, art and culture, public health, physical education and sport, information and communication. The signatories of the Lao side was Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy minister for foreign affairs, and of the German side was Dietrich Jarck, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the GDR to Laos. [Text] [BK121316 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 12 Apr 88]

USSR Religious Group Departs

The Soviet religious delegation led by (Mikhailov), chief of the Religious Department, left Vientiane for home on 13 April after ending a 9-day friendship visit to Laos at an invitation of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee. During the visit, the Soviet delegation paid a courtesy call on Phoumi Vongvichit,

acting president of the republic, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the LFNC Central Committee. It also called on chairman of the Lao Unified Buddhists Organization and held talks with a Lao Buddhist delegation to exchange lessons on religious work. The delegation visited some economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane municipality and province. [Text] [BK171049 *Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao* 1200 GMT 13 Apr 88]

Polish Press Delegation Visits

Vientiane, April 13 (KPL)—Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP CC and head of its Propaganda and Training Board, on April 12 received here a delegation of TRYBUNA LUDU newspaper, the organ of the PZPR [Polish United Workers Party], led by its director-in-chief Jerzy Majka, member of the Polish United Worker's Party CC. Somlat Chanthamat hailed the present visit of the delegation, describing it as a contribution to strengthening cooperation between the organs of the two countries' parties. Propaganda issues were discussed at the meeting. During its stay here, the delegation had a talk with its Lao counterpart, gave seminars concerning the situation in Poland. It also visited some places of interest in Vientiane. The delegation arrived here on April 8 in response to the invitation of the editor-in-chief of PASASON newspaper and will leave here today. [Text] [BK160218 *Vientiane KPL English* 0931 GMT 15 Apr 88]

Education Minister to France

Vientiane, April 15 (KPL)—Professor Bountiam Phitsamai, acting minister for education, on April 14 left here for an 8-day friendly visit to France at the invitation of the French Government. The Lao educational minister is to meet with French officials and discuss issues on educational cooperation. Prof Bountiam Phitsamai is also to visit higher learning institutes. According to the programme, he is to meet with his French counterpart on next Tuesday. The Lao minister will also meet Deputy Foreign Minister of France Didier Bariani, the first member of the present French Government who paid a visit to Laos since 1975. [Text] [BK151214 *Vientiane KPL English* 0900 GMT 15 Apr 88]

Philippines

Pampanga Rebels Renew Threat to Americans
HK221307 *Quezon City GMA-7 Radio Television Arts Network in Tagalog* 1030 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] The New People's Army in Central Luzon have renewed threats against the Americans. The NPA Pampanga Command has issued a written warning to launch attacks not only on U.S. military facilities and personnel but also on civilian offices and business establishments owned by Americans. They accused the United States government of meddling and participating with the government's counter-insurgency operation.

Rebels Say U.S., Canadian Projects Targets
HK220941 *Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog*
0700 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Communist rebels intend to step up attacks on government agencies and on other foreign establishments in Negros.

In a two page announcement by the Negros Regional Rebel Chapter [as heard] signed by rebel priest Reverend Frank Fernandez, he said that the rebels' prime targets are development projects of the U.S. and Canadian governments which he alleged to be helping the counterinsurgency campaign.

The announcement did not indicate whether U.S. and Canadian personnel were also targets of attacks. According to the announcement, the projected intensification of attacks was a reaction of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA to the Aquino government's decision to use Negros Island as a laboratory for its low intensity conflict strategy against the rebels.

Father Frank Fernandez is the leader of the NDF Negros Chapter.

Aquino Keeps Open Stance on Bases Rental
HK190211 *Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English* 2300 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] President Aquino has clarified her stand regarding the proposal of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and Senator Ernesto Maceda for additional payment of rent for the continued use of the U.S. bases in the country. She said that even though Manglapus and Maceda are both members of the coalition party, the proposal under the negotiations for the military facilities remains open.

[Begin Aquino recording] I think we realize [words indistinct] and that even if Secretary Manglapus and Senator Maceda are both members of the coalition party, I will give my position later on. As I have said, I want to keep my options open. [end recording]

Bases Talks Reported To Snag on Labor Issue
HK210729 *Manila BUSINESS STAR in English*
21 Apr 88 p 24

[By Patricia L. Adversario]

[Text] The Philippine and American panels reviewing the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) remain at an impasse over the matter of jurisdiction over Filipino workers at the base.

The two panels have been meeting at the working levels (without panel heads Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and U.S. ambassador Nicholas Platt) since Manglapus left for China and Japan. The foreign secretary went to Japan for a six-day working visit after he went with President Aquino to China.

The issue of applying Philippine labor relation laws to the Filipino civilian workers in the base has long been an irritant in the base operations. Under the 1947 MBA, the only labor standards followed are those set by management, the U.S. government.

The U.S. contends that as both a sovereign government and employer, it cannot be bound by Philippine laws. American laws apply because the U.S. government has disclaimed responsibility over its employees who are not U.S. nationals. For these two reasons, Philippine labor laws do not apply to Filipino civilian workers in U.S. bases here.

Sources in the working panels yesterday said the impasse started during talks on the base security issue. The American panel voiced their complaint over the lack of assurance for their unimpeded movement to and from the base.

The U.S. panel wanted an explicit guarantee on this to prevent a repeat of the barricading of base workers at the Clark and Subic main gates on the first day of their strike in April 1986.

The Philippine panel, however, said the U.S. insistence was "unnecessary" since the free movement to and from the base was already guaranteed in the agreement.

The panel also argued that it could not compel the base workers to lift their barricade or picket at the base since the U.S. does not recognize Philippine jurisdiction over the Filipino base workers. The U.S. government as employer maintains jurisdiction over the workers.

Sources said labor department officials maintained the position that "the only remedy" for insuring free movement to and from the base would be for the U.S. to recognize Philippine jurisdiction—through the labor department—over the Filipino base workers.

It is "unlikely," however, the sources said, that the U.S. as a sovereign government and employer would submit to the idea of subjecting itself to the jurisdiction of another government. The U.S. panel has indicated as much, the sources said, and "that's why there's an impasse."

A proposal for the U.S. government to turn over the hiring of base workers to a private contractor has been aired but the Americans still have to give their side, the sources said.

Meanwhile, foreign department sources said Manglapus is expected to appoint the members of the three-man Base Labor Agreement (BLA) review panel next week before he leaves for Dusseldorf, West Germany to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-European Community Ministerial meeting on May 2-3.

Among those being considered to compose the panel are Israel Bocobo, Department of Foreign Affairs assistant secretary for labor, labor undersecretary Ricardo C. Castro, and Rosalinda Baldos of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board, Department of Labor and Employment. Roberto A. Flores, president of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees' Associations in US bases in the Philippines, could be taken in as consultant to the panel, the DFA sources said.

Manglapus' move, however, does not immediately indicate that the BLA review would start at once as the American side would also have to appoint its own panel. Sources said the American panel has asked for "more time to look for their own specialists in this area."

The two BLA review panels, however, should start negotiations within 90 days from April 12 as earlier agreed upon by the two governments.

Farmers, Students Urge Seizure of Clark Land
HK200233 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] In Angeles City, 1,000 farmers and students calling for the seizure of land occupied by the U.S. military bases broke through police barricades outside Clark Air Base yesterday [19 April]. About 200 riot troops and two dozen regular soldiers armed with M-16 automatic rifles blocked the crowd when it reached the main gate of the base. The demonstrators held an hour-long rally outside the base, then said they would move on to Manila. Troops had set up blockades of police jeeps and firetrucks, keeping the protesters from the gate, but they broke through. No injuries were reported and no protesters entered the base. The demonstrators called for Clark and nearby Subic Naval Base to be dismantled and the land given to farmers.

Senator Urges Dismantling of U.S. Bases
HK221247 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
22 Apr 88 p 24

[By Raisa Espinosa Robles]

[Text] The anti-U.S. bases movement gains today yet another proponent, someone long perceived as pro-American and even accused by the left as having dealings with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator Ernesto Herrera will deliver this morning a privilege speech on the labor situation in the U.S. bases.

Among his recommendations will be "the dismantling of the bases at the soonest appropriate time, by 1991," Herrera told BUSINESS STAR.

Although Herrera describes himself as "a little left of center," he is perceived by many fellow senators as centrist or even someone right of center.

He is the second non-leftist senator to join the anti-bases bandwagon.

Last Tuesday, Senator Joseph Estrada celebrated his birthday by advocating the removal of the U.S. bases.

Estrada, who recently joined the Liberal Party which espouses an anti-bases policy, has a large mass following.

A senator noted that the so-called bakya (common) crowd that adores Estrada can easily be influenced by the box-office king-turned-senator to follow his thinking on the bases if he decides to solicit their support.

Herrera's constituency consists mainly of the nationwide labor members of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), which wants the bases to stay. Herrera was president of the TUCP before he ran for senator.

"The TUCP position as an institution is to extend the terms beyond 1991," Herrera said.

Other sources said Herrera's sudden turnabout is part of his strategy in his fight for TUCP control with TUCP head Democrito Mendoza. "Not so," Herrera claimed, but declined to elaborate.

"There is a possibility that TUCP will conduct a referendum on the bases among its members," he added. Explaining his turnabout, he said: "Can we really stop the eventual dismantling? I don't think so. We might as well prepare for it." He stressed that the Philippines has to prepare for the eventuality, otherwise "we might be creating a revolution."

Herrera also signed the nuclear-free bill along with 11 other senators, namely: Leticia Ramos Shahani, Jose Lina, Alberto Romulo, Rene Saguisag, Heherson Alvarez, Sotero Laurel, Aquilino Pimentel Jr, Ernesto Maceda, Agapito Aquino, Santanina Rasul and Wigberto Tanada. Three other senators are expected to sign the bill.

Senate President Jovito Salonga, and Senate pro tempore Teopisto Guingona Jr have expressed opinions against it.

\$1.2-Billion Bases Payment Said 'Reasonable'
HK220753 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
22 Apr 88 p 8

[By Ma. Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] A compensation package for the use of the bases amounting to \$1.2 billion as proposed by Congress seems reasonable after all. This amount may even be conservative.

American assistance to the Philippines which for 1988 amounts to \$399 million, is so negligible vis-a-vis the U.S. federal budget of \$1.2 trillion that any reduction thereof would not actually ease the U.S. budget deficit of more than \$150 billion. This could even result in severe drawbacks to the U.S.

A testimony in a U.S. congressional hearing on foreign affairs and national security said foreign assistance does not constitute a significant drain on the U.S. budget contrary to popular belief.

Documents obtained by BUSINESS WORLD showed that U.S. foreign assistance for 1988 is \$13.4 billion. This amount represents roughly 1 percent of the federal budget "or equivalent to a penny of a tax dollar."

Philippine share (\$339 million) of U.S. foreign assistance package constitutes 2 percent. Relative to the total U.S. budget (\$1.2 trillion), U.S. aid to the Philippines consumes roughly 0.03 percent.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost, in addressing a Rotary Club in Kentucky, said "... very little savings can be gained from reductions in foreign assistance." Mr Armacost was reacting to a proposed measure of the U.S. that would see a worldwide cut in foreign aid so as to alleviate the budget deficit of the U.S.

He noted, "Even if you zeroed out all new spending for international affairs—a 100 percent cut—you would reduce spending by only about \$10 billion." He stressed that since no one is recommending a 100 percent cut, a change if any, would do little to reduce the U.S. budget deficit of \$150 billion.

U.S. Undersecretary for Security Assistance Edward Derwinski, testifying before Congress, cautioned against cutting security assistance to developing countries as this would have severe repercussions on U.S. foreign policy. "They (security assistance programs) also have useful domestic side benefits." However, he noted that this form of assistance has been cut below the level of prudence.

"It should be obvious to any dispassionate observer that we are not going to dent our federal deficits by taking big cuts in programs which make up less than 2 percent of the budget," said Mr Derwinski.

He observed that among the consequences of worldwide cut in aid would be a "further gutting of American base rights commitments just as a new agreement is being negotiated, particularly in the Philippines, Turkey, Spain and Greece."

Furthermore, assistance to countries where the U.S. enjoys access agreements (such as Kenya, Somalia, Oman and Morocco) may be totally ruled out.

There will come a time, he observed, that the U.S. budget will only pay for assistance to Israel, Egypt, Pakistan and Central America nations with inadequate support for the base rights countries and withdrawal everywhere else.

Further, he explained that the countries affected by the cut would be less able to deter aggression because essential military equipment or the support to operate it cannot be purchased. If these countries are attacked, the U.S. would face the choice of greater U.S. involvement in their defense or letting its allies run their own risks.

Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary on Bases Talk
HK200807 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English
20 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Jose Ingles said yesterday the Philippine panel has no other choice but to negotiate for improvements in the terms of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement within the terms of the 1987 Constitution.

Ingles said the Constitution "explicitly" prohibits the acquisition, storage, installation of nuclear weapons within Philippine territory.

This provision, he said, would serve as a guide for the Philippine panel now meeting with the U.S. panel in the mandatory review of the 1947 agreement.

He also said the demand by the Philippines for "prior consent" before the U.S. can deploy long-range missiles and utilize the bases for combat missions outside the purview of the Mutual Defense Treaty is consistent with the constitutional mandate.

Two weeks ago, a heated discussion between the U.S. and Philippine panel ensued on the item of "unhampered operational control of the bases."

In a related development, the U.S. and RP panels yesterday discussed at the "working level" details for the forthcoming Bases Labor Negotiations.

Earlier, the two panels agreed to constitute separate base labor panels to discuss the conditions of Filipino workers inside the bases.

The two panels have agreed to constitute new panels of three members each, but the members have yet to be named.

It was learned that the Philippine side will press for the collective bargaining system, while the U.S. will propose the "survey system," a practice which allows the U.S. to peg wage prices after a survey of 30 top companies in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, local officials of Mabalacat, Pampanga urged the Philippine panel to press for a \$20-million annual grant to the town for hosting 90 percent of Clark Airbase proper.

Mayor Fred Halili and Vice Mayor Marino Morales told the Bulong-Pulungan sa Plaza [Forum at the Plaza] that their town is not receiving its "fair share" of the benefits from the bases despite the "sonic and water pollution" that the town residents suffer.

Accord on Rice Importation Signed With U.S.
HK200357 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0200 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt and acting Philippine Finance Secretary Victor Macalalag yesterday signed an agreement allowing the Philippines to import rice from the United States. Ninety-one thousand metric tons of rice will be imported from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation. The importation is expected to ease the negative effects of the drought the nation experienced recently. The agreement stipulates that payment of the loan principal will begin at the end of a 5-year grace period, beginning on the last day of delivery. One of the conditions is for the government's rice purchase to be added to the Agricultural Rural Development's budget, also for the conservation of the country's natural resources. [sentence as heard]

Japan To Investigate Alleged NPA Funding
HK221241 Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Manila, April 22 (AFP)—Japan has pledged to look into alleged funding of communist insurgents in the Philippines by Japanese groups, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said here Friday on his return from a five-day visit to Tokyo.

Mr Manglapus said that he had taken up with Japanese officials the issue of foreign aid to the Filipino rebels after evidence of "sources of support from Japan" were seized from raids of rebel safehouses.

"They (Japan) would certainly cooperate in checking the flow of funds," Mr Manglapus said without naming the groups.

The Philippine military has said the leftist coalition National Democratic Front (NDF) raised at least eight million U.S. dollars in cash and firearms last year from private groups abroad, but that there was no evidence of foreign government support.

The NDF groups 12 underground organizations including the Communist Party of the Philippines and its 25,000-strong New People's Army (NPA), which has been calling for united foreign aid so it could step up its 19-year guerrilla war against the government.

Mr Manglapus earlier said that some of the foreign aid from Europe could not have been channeled to the NDF without the approval of the Dutch government, which has denied involvement.

Mr Manglapus said Friday that the Japanese government was interested in the concept of a "mini-Marshall" plan to rebuild the Philippine economy, which came close to collapse under former president Ferdinand Marcos.

"They (Japan) have shown a readiness to study seriously the notion of a multilateral package for the Philippines," he said, adding that assistance from the European Economic Community, Australia and the United States was also being considered.

But he made it clear the package was "not related" in any way to bilateral negotiations on the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the two largest U.S. overseas military facilities situated near Manila.

Some Filipinos have suggested that the Philippines use the threat of the non-extension of the bases agreement on its expiry in 1991 as a lever to obtain a million-dollar [figure as received] multilateral aid package.

'No Interest' in Spratlys Says Soviet Official
*BK211044 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1000 GMT 21 Apr 88*

[Text] Officials of the Soviet Embassy in Manila today expressed interest for the early solution of the Spratly islands dispute through peaceful means. The Soviet Embassy's Minister Counsellor Alexandre Losyukov said the Spratly Islands can be a center of a major international conflict, which has to be settled by peaceful means. Losyukov said the Spratlys has no strategic value to the Soviet Union and therefore Moscow has no interest in it.

Mayor Supports Soviet Repair Facility In Cebu
*HK210827 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 21 Apr 88*

[Text] Here is Rey Amugis of DYRS-Cebu:

[Begin Amugis recording in English] Cebu City mayor Tomas Osmena supports the Soviet government's proposal to put up a repair facility here for Soviet fishing vessels. However, some city councillors oppose the proposal.

Osmena said the proposal was presented to him by Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Oleg Sokolov during the ambassador's visit here two months ago. The repair facility for Soviet fishing vessels operating in the South China Sea and the Pacific is in Singapore. According to Osmena, the Soviet officials considered Singapore too far from the fishing zone. He added that the Soviets believed it would be more economical to transfer the repair facility here. Osmena also said that this proposal, if realized, will mean a P100 million income for the city.

However, some members of the provincial board opposed Osmena's ideas, saying this could pose a threat to our national security. According to board members Estrella Rama, Franklin Luceno and Aurora Floralina, Russians are good at spying. Aside from that, they said that there is a danger that putting up Soviet vessels here would strengthen support to the New People's Army in Central Visayas.

This is the report from Cebu City. This is Rey Amugis of Station DYRS reporting. [end recording]

Aquino on Spratlys at 18 April News Conference
*BK190546 Manila PNA in English 0446 GMT
19 Apr 88*

[Text] Manila, April 19 (PNA-OANA)—The Philippines and China, two of five countries contesting the Spratly Island group in South China Sea, have agreed to shelve temporarily the dispute.

President Corazon C. Aquino said the two nations instead would concentrate more on increasing trade and foreign relations.

The Philippine president had just concluded a three day state visit to the People's Republic of China April 14-16.

In a press conference Monday, Aquino said that she and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping agreed to shelve the Spratly dispute to an indefinite period in the interest of strengthening diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Spratly group is being claimed by the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Malaysia. It is located in the South China Sea at the junction of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Congressmen Questioned on SRV Document
HK191519 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 19 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[By staff member Cristina Pastor]

[Text] Was it an agreement or a statement that Rep. Jose Yap (Tarlac) and Roque Ablan Jr. (Ilocos Norte) signed in Hanoi three weeks ago?

The two congressmen want it known that they never signed anything binding the Philippines to any kind of agreement with Vietnam.

What they signed, Yap and Ablan insisted yesterday, was merely a "unilateral statement" issued by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach stating that Cam Ranh Bay is "a Vietnamese base, not a Soviet base."

"We are not that stupid to sign anything for the Philippines," Ablan told reporters who interviewed him and Yap after a committee hearing in the morning.

The two congressmen have been criticized for signing the controversial document without authority from the Philippine Government.

A copy of Co Thach's supposed statement was released Thursday last week by the Vietnamese embassy here.

It contained the signatures of Yap and Ablan, among others, and was witnessed by Philippine Ambassador to Vietnam Cipriano Leron.

The statement, which sounded like an agreement between the two countries, said:

"1. All territory of the Republic of Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam shall not be utilized by a foreign power as a base of hostility and against each other.

"2. The Republic of the Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam shall refrain from using force to settle any difference, including (the one over) the Spratly Islands, but only through negotiation.

"3. The Republic of the Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam shall always be friends forever."

The two congressmen sounded defensive and irritated when asked why the supposed unilateral statement from the Vietnamese foreign minister included what looked like a commitment from the Philippines.

"If you want to twist that statement, that is your position," Yap said. "If you want to interpret it (your way), that is your business. As a congressman, I am entitled to my own interpretation."

When asked why Cam Ranh Bay was not mentioned in the statement, Yap replied: "As far as I know—that is the statement that I signed."

The Tarlac solon explained that he attached his signature to the supposed statement after Thach assured him there was no Soviet base in Vietnam and that Cam Ranh Bay was entirely a Vietnamese military installation.

"I asked him (Thach), 'Can I quote you?' and he said 'Yes,' so I told him to put it in writing. That was what I signed," Yap said.

The interview ended with reporters still trying to figure out whether it was an agreement or merely a statement that the two congressmen had signed.

Philippines To Invite Nicaragua to Conference
HK181339 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT
18 Apr 88

[Text] Manila, April 18 (AFP)—The Philippines is to invite Nicaragua to a conference of newly-restored democracies here in June, a Philippine foreign department official said Monday.

President Corazon Aquino has approved the participation of Managua in the June 3-6 conference, Menandozo Galenzoga told reporters here.

The Sandinist government of Nicaragua has no diplomatic ties with the Philippines and Mr Galenzoga, chairman of the conference secretariat, said the invitation would be forwarded through a third country.

The department said last week that government representatives of the academic and business world who had figured in the transition to democracy in at least 15 Latin American and European nations will attend the Manila meeting.

The conference would also cover the role of the military in these countries and the foreign debt issue, Mr Galenzoga said.

The matter of foreign military bases in these countries might also be discussed, he added.

Editorial Assesses Aquino's China Visit
HK191503 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 19 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Assessing the President's Trip"]

[Text] President Aquino's visit to China, which she completed on Sunday, accomplished two things. First, it demonstrated that her Government has developed a reasonable level of stability. The visit was preceded by clouds of uncertainty seeded by the escape of Gregorio

Honasan and his accomplices. This uncertainty dissipated during the visit when eight of the navy men who sprang Honasan from the prison ship were captured.

This indicated that the military renegades were on the run rather than capable of mounting another coup. The President herself concluded, upon her return, that the tranquil situation during her absence proved that "freedom and stability are not weak and fragile achievements, but the permanent condition in the Philippines."

The other aspect of the visit is that it showed the expansion of the regional thrust of Philippine foreign policy. The first overseas visit by President Aquino early in her term was to two Asean nations—Indonesia and Singapore. This was followed by the visit to the United States, then Japan. Asean was given priority over the United States, the Philippines' traditional ally.

All these visits were made during periods of political crises in which there were serious coup plots against the Government. The essential function of developing the nation's foreign policy had to be carried out alongside the efforts to consolidate the political transition from the dictatorship to democracy.

The emphasis on Asia reversed a previous pattern in which former administrations paid more attention to the U.S. than to our neighbors. This pattern gave our neighbors the impression that we were a pariah in the region, isolated from our geographical environment. The reversal is a signal that we are trying to reestablish—even though belatedly—our links with the region.

The China visit pushes further this development of our Asian reorientation. There are political and economic benefits as well. The President has received assurance from Chinese leaders that the Chinese government, as well as the Chinese Communist Party, would not interfere in Philippine affairs.

This assurance has implication for the counter-insurgency campaign. Although the Communist Party of the Philippines finds more affinity with the Chinese Party than the Soviet Party, non-interference from the Chinese Party reduces possibility of material aid to the local party. The Chinese party has a good history of living up to its non-interference pledges with regard to Marxist revolutionary movements in Asia.

The visit has also promoted the normalization of relations between Manila and Beijing. The pledge by China to expand trade by buying more of our goods opens the way for the development of economic relations. China has a vast potential market which is being eyed by the U.S. and Japan, as well as the rest of the industrial West, and the Philippines must not allow itself to be left behind in tapping this potential.

The visits so far made by President Aquino indicate that the Philippines is at least trying to get out of its parochial outlook. Our geographical isolation from mainland Asia should not be an inhibition from reaching out to other parts of the Pacific Basin, which is seen as the dynamic growth region in the 21st century.

Rally For Genuine Land Reform Reported
HK210817 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Demonstrators are presently gathering at Liwasang Bonifacio to protest the proposed bills on the comprehensive agrarian reform program pending in Congress as well as to demand genuine land reform.

The demonstrators composed of farmers, businessmen and cause-oriented groups came from different provinces in Luzon. They started their march in Ilagan, Isabela and Sorsogon last Monday.

Police have been deployed around Liwasang Bonifacio to stop the demonstrators from proceeding to Malacanang Palace and the U.S. Embassy. According to Colonel Emiliano Templo, deputy commander of the Manila Constabulary Command, the demonstrators are believed to number 10,000.

House 'Finally' Passes Agrarian Reform Bill
HK220703 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 22 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[By staff member Cristina Pastor]

[Text] After nine months, the House of Representatives finally gave birth to an agrarian reform measure with the passage of House Bill [HB] 400 on third and final reading last night.

The voting was still going on at 9 last night, but congressional observers said it was all over but the counting.

Its approval is likely to spark new protests from pro-farmer advocates, who say the bill, as revised, tilted the scale heavily in favor of landowners.

The voting was the final stage of the bill's odyssey from a radical measure setting a seven-hectare retention limit to one that not only would entitle landowners to seven hectares but also would allow their direct legal heirs to keep three hectares each.

This provision, critics say, would shield 97 percent of private lands from the reach of land reform.

The bill's original sponsors, led by Rep. Bonifacio Gillego (Sorsogon), have dissociated themselves from it, saying it had been terribly emasculated.

It was a long and tortuous haul for HB 400, and at one point along the way, the House leadership got severely challenged.

Speaker Ramon V. Mitra found himself trying to balance precariously between two opposing forces—on one hand, the so-called progressive solons, who felt he gave too many concessions to landowners, and, on the other, the land majority who faulted him for allowing the bill, with its former radical provisions, to flourish beyond the committee level.

Among the bill's other features are:

—The use of labor administration by owners who cannot directly cultivate their land.

—Distribution of sequestered, idle and abandoned lands first before private agricultural land.

—Exemption of orchards, prawn farms, livestock farms and 24-hectare homestead lands from land reform.

—A compensation package of 30 to 50 percent cash, with the rest of the amount to be paid in negotiable financial instruments.

Gillego, HB 400's original proponent, said the passage of the amended bill "signaled the demise of agrarian reform."

Explaining his vote for a record 11 minutes, Gillego said, "We saw how even at the moment of conception HB 400 was merely aborted. It went through a state of delirium tremens during the period of interpellation. During the period of amendment, it went into deep coma and finally into a state of rigor mortis."

The bill, according to him, institutionalizes hacienda preservation and landlord protection.

Similar no votes were voiced by the following solons:

To President Aquino's sister-in-law, Rep. Teresa Aquino-Oreta (Malabon-Navotas), legislating an agrarian reform bill had become a joke. "We promised a pro-peasant bill, we ultimately came up with a pro-landlord program," she said. "The comedy had become a farce but for our people, this is a tragedy."

Rep. Hernando Perez (Batangas) said the "mutilated measure is not the answer to the people's clamor for sweeping countryside reforms."

Rep. Eduardo Pilapil (Camarines Sur) dubbed the bill "toothless" and unresponsive to the present state of poverty in the country.

Voting in the affirmative, Rep. Pablo Garcia (Cebu) said HB 400 may be far from perfect but it is the best the House could produce.

"It was a bill I despised, denounced as unjust, oppressive and confiscatory. I take back all what I said," Garcia said.

Rep. Herminio Aquino (Tarlac), the President's uncle, called HB 400 a "centrist document," a product of a collective "patriotic and the best mind" in the House. "I am happy about it," he added.

As a tactical move, Rep. Edcel Lagman (Albay), one of the original proponents of the bill, abstained from voting. Lagman was nominated to represent the House in the joint Senate-House conference committee that will reconcile the two chambers' proposed bills. A negative vote could disqualify him from the committee.

"I see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel and the conference committee holds the beacon," he said.

However, another nominee, Rep. Raul Roco (Camarines Sur) said his conscience "dictates that social justice, not agricultural productivity, is the overriding concern of agrarian reform." He voted no to HB 400 at the risk of losing his nomination.

Sets 'Stage for a Compromise'

HK220441 Hong Kong AFP in English 0335 GMT
22 apr 88

[Text] Manila, April 22 (AFP)—The Philippine House of Representatives has passed an agrarian reform bill that allegedly favours landlords, setting the stage for a compromise with a pro-peasant version due for approval soon in the Senate.

The bill was passed late Thursday by a vote of 112-47 after a marathon session that began amid a protest rally by 10,000 farmers and supporters who marched across Manila to demand sweeping agrarian reform, House officials said. Agrarian or land reform is a program to redistribute the country's large and medium-sized farms and idle tracts of land to landless peasants, tenants and workers in order to ease poverty and weaken insurgency in the countryside.

The House bill was disowned by its original authors after landlords in the chamber watered it down by inserting certain provisions. The most controversial one would allow owners to keep seven hectares (17.3 acres) of land each plus three hectares (7.4 acres) for each of dependents.

Critics said this would allow the great majority of landowners to circumvent redistribution by parcelling out their farms among relatives, and said other provisions exempting some types of farms would effectively scuttle land reform. The Senate bill, due for a largely formal final reading next week, would allow owners to keep a maximum of five hectares (12.35 acres) of their farms. It is generally regarded as favouring poor, landless farmers.

The Senate and the House have formed a joint committee to hammer out a compromise act to be sent to President Corazon Aquino for approval.

Mrs. Aquino has promised to redistribute her family's 6,000-hectare (14,820-acre) sugar plantation, one of the largest estates in the country, but has left it to Congress to set the terms.

Apart from determining how much land owners could retain, the committee has to settle other thorny issues such as compensation for owners, what types of farms to exempt, and which farms to divide up first.

Landowners insist that state-owned and idle lands should be carved up first, but advocates of radical reform want all farms covered in a single sweep.

Aquino Denies Factionalism in Military
HK221027 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Manila, April 22 (AFP)—Philippines President Corazon Aquino, who has survived five coup attempts, denied Friday that the Armed Forces still had divided loyalties.

A senate committee probing the escape of cashiered army colonel Gregorio Honasan, whose August 28 coup attempt left 53 people dead and about 300 wounded, concluded on Thursday that the plotters had valid grievances.

Committee Chairman Senator Ernesto Maceda said factionalism still existed in the military and that a significant number of junior officers and enlisted men felt there was no hope for reforms under the current military leadership.

"I would not like to call it factionalism. Perhaps there have been cases of misunderstanding in the group," Mrs. Aquino told reporters Friday.

"I think that the great majority are supporting the Constitution and supporting this administration," she added.

On the same subject, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos Friday denied claims by Mr. Maceda that the Armed Forces were losing the 19-year-old guerrilla war due to military factionalism.

"We may be losing in a few areas at a particular time or a particular period. If that is so, I am sure that it is not because of factionalism," Mr. Ramos told reporters at the defence department.

Mr. Maceda said on Thursday that the situation was "very critical and serious" and that government statements to the contrary if allowed to stand on their own, "may cause a false sense of security among the Filipino people."

"If we are not winning, we are progressing because this is a protracted war and you do not win a protracted war in a period of 24 months which has been the time that this government has been instituting reforms," Mr. Ramos said.

Mr. Honasan escaped with 13 elite Navy troops assigned to guard him on a prison ship on April 2, and has threatened fresh attacks. Eight of the guards have since been arrested, and Mrs. Aquino has dismissed his threat.

A total of 802 officers and enlisted remain in prison awaiting trial for their alleged participation in past coup attempts, military records show.

Confident of Military Support
HK221301 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] President Aquino believes that a majority of military personnel support the country's Constitution. This is the president's reaction to Senator Ernesto Maceda's claim that factionalism still exist within the military.

[Begin Aquino recording in English] Well, I would not like to call it factionalism. Perhaps, there have been cases of misunderstanding between the groups, but I think, the great majority are supporting the Constitution and supporting this administration. So, I think, we work, first of all, with the majority to be able to get all members of the Armed Forces to unite in order to help this government in nation rebuilding. [end recording]

House Members on Widening Honasan Escape Probe
BK190558 Manila PNA in English 0444 GMT
19 Apr 88

[Text] Manila, April 19 (PNA-OANA)—The Philippine House of Representatives has been asked to expand its probe on the escape of a rebel soldier to include the alleged participation of military men, politicians, and businessmen.

Rep. Gualberto Lumaig underscoring the need to expand the probe to know the identities of those involved in the escape of coup leader Gregorio Honasan so that proper remedial measures could be effected to resolve the causes of the problem.

Meanwhile, the wife of Honasan has expressed the belief that the rebel military leader had no intentions of launching another hostile attack against the Aquino government.

Jane Honasan told reporters she doubted the authenticity of a supposed letter from Honasan that he was withdrawing an earlier commitment not to engage in hostilities to pursue his cause.

The letter was circulated two days after Honasan escaped from his prison ship along with 14 of his Navy guards on April 2. The letter was signed Gringo, Honasan's nickname.

It is unusual for Honasan to sign important documents such as the alleged letter with only his nickname, Jane Honasan said.

She said she also received a letter from her husband last April 2 assuring her that he was safe and asked her not to believe newspaper reports about his alleged intentions to take hostile actions.

Eight of the 14 Navy guards who helped Honasan escape were captured last Friday in suburban Quezon City. Follow up raids on other suspected hideouts failed to bag the dismissed army colonel.

Col Guillermo Ruiz of the National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC) Monday said Honasan could have slipped past a security ring around Metro Manila and could have fled to the northern provinces.

The Philippines House of Representatives, is expected to unmask the identities of Honasan's supporters from the civilian sector whom Colonel Ruiz said were provided by the eight arrested Navy guards.

Rep. Jose Yap, chairman of the House Committee on National Defense, told newsmen that Ruiz would be summoned to a public hearing to name the persons behind Honasan's bid to destabilize the government.

Ruiz had earlier told newsmen he had the list of Honasan supporters but refused to release it.

Honasan led some 2,000 soldiers in a coup attempt last August 28. He was arrested on December 9 and was detained aboard a Philippine Navy ship anchored off Manila Bay.

On April 2, Honasan, helped by 14 Navy guards jumped ship and fled on two rubber boats towards a reclamation area near the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) where they were picked up by waiting cars.

Matillano Says He Will Not Take Part in Coup
HK191533 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 19 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] Cabanatuan City—"I have no plan to participate in any coup attempt or help to destabilize the government."

Thus said escaped PC Lt. Eduardo S. Matillano, a participant in the failed but bloody August 28 coup attempt, in a letter sent to news organizations in this city last Friday.

Matillano, a classmate of former Army Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the August 28 coup, escaped from his detention cell in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, Metro Manila, on April 8, five days after Honasan bolted his prison ship on Manila Bay on black Saturday together with his guards.

Matillano, former Nueva Ecija PC commander, explained that he escaped to protest his continued detention despite the nonfiling of charges against him and his men.

He said he was willing and ready to face any charges against him for joining Honasan in the abortive August 28 coup attempt. His only regret, he said, was the continued detention of his men in the LST (landing ship tank) 500 on Manila Bay despite the release of the Army soldiers who joined the coup.

Matillano commended his men and the policemen who joined the coup, saying they "were professional soldiers who know how to obey orders."

He said all he wanted was "justice" for his men and the policemen.

Matillano said nothing about his guard, S/Sgt. Eduardo Maramag, who joined him in his escape after an appointment with his dentist on April 8.

Military authorities are still investigating whether Matillano was aided by other military men in his gateway. Brig. Gen. Mariano Adalem, Army commanding general, had relieved and placed under restriction a certain Captain Manalo, officer-in-charge of the Fort Bonifacio Detention Center, where Matillano had been confined since August 29.

Ramos Expects Honasan To Try To Free Comrades
HK211155 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT
21 Apr 88

[Text] Manila, April 21 (AFP)—Philippine military rebel leader Gregorio Honasan is likely to try to free jailed comrades and launch terrorist strikes although his movements have been hampered, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said Thursday.

Military spokesmen said 802 soldiers, including 180 officers, remained in detention awaiting court martial for their alleged involvement in a bloody August coup attempt led by Mr. Honasan, a dismissed Army colonel.

The rest of the 2,000 men involved in the uprising have been freed after being cleared of charges or given administrative sanctions, they added.

Mr Ramos told a forum here that Mr. Honasan, who escaped from prison three weeks ago, was determined to destabilize President Corazon Aquino's government.

He said that apart from trying to free his comrades and terrorist attacks, two other actions "likely to be undertaken" by Mr. Honasan were "agitation and propaganda" and a link-up with political groups which Mr. Ramos did not name.

Mr Ramos, who has crushed two attempted power grabs by the renegade, said the capture of eight sailors who helped him escape from a prison ship on April 2 "substantially diminished the capability of Honasan to move around."

The capture was followed by raids on suspected hideouts of Mr. Honasan, but he has eluded the dragnet and is believed to be hiding in the capital.

Military Said To Stop Guard From Testifying
HK200831 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 20 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[By GLOBE staff writers David C. Borje and Rowena Bundang]

[Text] The Senate committee on national defense and security assailed yesterday what it called an attempt to muzzle the press when the military suddenly stopped Navy Ensign Eraldo Mojica from testifying on the escape last April 2 of coup leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan from his prison ship, BRP [expansion unknown] Andres Bonifacio.

Mojica, head of the elite 13-man special warfare group which guarded Honasan aboard the navy ship since his capture last December 9 but who all escaped with the leader of the August 28 coup attempt, arrived shortly before 9 a.m. yesterday in the Senate with his military escorts, ready to testify in response to an invitation from the committee headed by Sen. Ernesto M. Maceda.

But before he could testify, Mojica was ordered back to his military detention cell on orders of AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Gen. Renato S. de Villa.

Mojica was supposed to be the principal witness in yesterday's Senate committee hearing on Honasan's escape.

At the House of Representatives, congressmen summoned two top military officials to shed light on the escape and produce all documents vital to the chamber's inquiry.

Invited to testify today before a joint hearing conducted by the House committees on national defense and public order and security are Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, National Capital Region Defense Command chief, and Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Peralta, AFP inspector general.

The two committees decided to summon the military officials in view of the developments that cropped up recently on the Honasan escape and the delayed submission of the military's report, which was prepared by the Peralta Commission.

Biazon, Peralta, and Brig. Gen. Jesus Declan, chief of the GHQ liaison office for legislative affairs, explained that there was no intention of the military to gag the press.

They said De Villa had requested that Mojica's testimony be held in Camp Crame in an executive (close-door) session, since his testimony may prejudice the military's ongoing investigation of the Honasan incident.

Sen. Rene Saguisag, committee member, walked out of the committee hearing after telling the body that the hearing may prejudice the constitutional rights of individuals facing charges.

Maceda explained, however, that a witness may request for an executive session where he is assured confidentiality of his testimony.

The chairman also said the committee could stop a witness from using a public hearing as a forum for propaganda.

Maceda observed that the situation in Metro Manila is not serious enough to endanger the appearance of Mojica, and that the military is not so helpless to provide him with the necessary security.

Maceda's sentiments were also shared by Senators Ernesto Herrera, Santanina Rasul, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Senate Minority leader Juan Ponce Enrile.

Enrile also observed that only Cabinet members may not appear before any Senate committee of body unless allowed by the President.

Biazon told the Maceda committee that Honasan does not have the capability to stage a coup similar to the August 28 incident which he led.

Peralta also admitted he was surprised himself when the military captured the eight navy guards of Honasan in a house in Blue Ridge, Quezon City, which is four houses away from his residence. He explained it was difficult to get information from his neighbors and that he was busy attending to his military duties.

Aquino on Press Freedom, Martial Law, More
HK201319 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 20 Apr 88 p 8

[Text] President Aquino yesterday [as published] said she fully adhered to press freedom as part of a democracy but appealed to reporters to also write "glowingly" about the achievements of her Administration instead of just criticizing its failures.

Mrs Aquino was reacting to a remark attributed to Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in Washington last week that U.S.-style press freedom was unsuited to developing countries and had contributed to confusion and political upheavals in Asian countries, including the Philippines, Singapore, India and Sri Lanka.

"I don't think I should blame media, especially not in front of you," Mrs Aquino told local and foreign reporters at a rare and unscheduled press conference in Malacanang. "But seriously, I would like to appeal to media to give us a boost, to help us in our efforts at nation rebuilding."

"I suppose I cannot really blame media when Government itself is not going all out or is not engaged in a strong campaign to attract foreign investments here," she said.

Mrs Aquino said, however, she was grateful in behalf of the nation to Lee for appealing for financial aid to the Philippines.

Lee, who met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan last week, urged the U.S. government and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to now support the Philippines in its economic recovery efforts.

Mrs Aquino said Lee "is really gungho about getting the other countries to support the Philippines."

At the news conference, Mrs Aquino underscored the need for her to take trips abroad, including her recent official visit to China, in order to project an image of stability for the country and encourage foreign businessmen to invest here.

"I believe in democracy, and I believe democracy will also help us attain our economic goals," she said. "perhaps what is just needed is for me to make a stronger appeal to may be do a balance of news [as published]."

"Of course, you have to report about the negative things here, but it could be a 50-50 thing," Mrs Aquino added. "You should also report glowingly about the accomplishment of this administration, and then you can go hitting us for the other things that we have not been able to do."

During the press conference, President Aquino also:

—Said it was not that she didn't trust Vice President Laurel by appointing Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig as caretaker every time she went abroad. "It's not a question of not trusting the Vice President but day in and day out, it's the executive secretary that I work with," Mrs Aquino said. She added that Laurel had resigned not only as foreign affairs secretary but also as a member of her Cabinet.

—Declined to answer questions related to the ongoing review of the Philippine-U.S. military bases agreement, saying she would adopt her same policy of "keeping my options open."

—Reiterated her statement that there was no need at the moment to use her emergency powers such as imposing martial law despite an opinion poll indicating that majority of the Filipinos would not oppose such measure.

—Explained that as President, she had to attend to problems of the entire nation and not only the problems of the military. She was reacting to statements of Honsan's guards that they joined the coup leader because the Government was not attending to some problems of the soldiers.

—Endorsed the raids conducted by the Manila police in bars in Ermita suspected to be prostitution dens, saying she believed the "dignity and honor of Filipino women should not be sacrificed in order for them to earn a living."

Aquino Swears in New Chief Justice Pedro Yap
HK191319 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] The oath-taking ceremony of Justice Pedro Yap as chief justice of the Supreme Court has just been concluded at Malacanang this afternoon. President Corazon Aquino swore into office Chief Justice Yap, whom she appointed to replace retiring Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee. Chief Justice Yap will only serve for 3 months as chief justice of the Supreme Court as he himself is due for retirement in July.

Aquino To Swear in New Defense Undersecretary
HK200649 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0600 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Retired General Eduardo Ermita is slated to take his oath of office as the new undersecretary of defense this afternoon. The former Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff will be sworn into office in a ceremony to be held in Malacanang.

Meanwhile, President Aquino is also scheduled to receive Mayor Jun Labo of Baguio City.

For the details, here is Sel Baesa:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] President Aquino is scheduled to swear into office retired General Eduardo Ermita as the new undersecretary of national defense, and Salvador Bejo as undersecretary of agrarian reform later this afternoon. The oath-taking ceremony will be held at the palace guest house. This is Sel Baesa, Bureau of Broadcast Services, Malacanang. [end recording]

Aquino Appoints New Justice, Cabinet Officials
HK210725 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
21 Apr 88 pp 1, 19

[By Fred M. Lobo]

[Text] President Aquino swore into office yesterday a presiding justice and four new associate justices of the Court of Appeals (CA) and two Cabinet undersecretaries.

She relieved Gen. Renato de Villa, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), of his additional duties as commander of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base so he can devote his time to other major responsibilities.

Sworn in by the President in simple rites in Malacanang were Presiding Justice Oscar Victoriano and Associate Justices Fernando Santiago, Asali S. Isnani, Regina Ordonez Benitez, and Luis Victor.

Mrs Aquino likewise swore into office retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita as undersecretary of national defense and Salvador P. Pejo as undersecretary of agrarian reform for legal affairs.

Victoriano, who was earlier presiding CA in acting capacity, replaced Presiding Justice Carolina Grino Aquino who was earlier elevated to the post of associate justice of the Supreme Court.

The 69-year-old CA presiding justice earned his law degree cum laude from Silliman University in Negros Oriental and placed third in the 1941 bar examinations.

Santiago, Isnani, and Benitez were previously regional trial court judges while Victor was city fiscal of Manila.

Presidential Legal Counsel Adolfo Azcuna said that the President filled up only four of the six vacancies for associate justices on Victoriano's recommendation that "the present facilities can only accommodate with difficulty four additional justices."

Ermita, 53, formerly served as AFP vice chief of staff. Prior to that, he held the post of commanding general of the AFP Civil Relations Service.

Ermita, who became a brigadier general in June 1985, retired from military service in April this year.

Pejo, prior to his appointment as agrarian reform undersecretary, served as officer-in-charge of the same office.

He earned his law degree from the University of the Philippines in 1953 and passed the bar in 1994. He also holds a master's degree in management from Bicol University.

Malacanang sources said that more appointees will be named by the President to vacant posts in the coming days to ensure efficient discharge of governmental functions.

The President relieved General de Villa of his additional duties as base commander of Clark and Subic through Administrative Order No 69.

Mrs Aquino immediately authorized the designation of new Filipino base commanders for the two U.S. facilities.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos told Malacanang newsmen that the move will free the chief of staff from a lot of responsibilities and likewise install Filipino base commanders that are of equal rank with their U.S. counterparts.

Ramos said that Brig. Gen. Jose de Leon, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), will become the base commander for Clark while Commodore Carlito Cunanan will become the commander for Subic.

He added that resident deputies Col. Cesar Go (Clark) and Marine Brig. Gen. Artenio Tadtar (Subic) will help run the day-to-day affairs of the bases.

New Air Force Commander's Background Noted
HK200402 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Brigadier General Jose de Leon, the new commander of the Philippine Air Force [PAF], is a veteran combat pilot who was the architect of the destruction of a big rebel camp in Mountain Province last year. A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, class of 1958, De Leon until lately was wing commander of the 5th Fighter Wing stationed in Basa Airbase, Pampanga, before assuming his new command. De Leon is the 21st PAF chief. He succeeded Major General Antonio Sotelo who was named the AFP's [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff.

Military Says CPP Split on Chairmanship
HK200959 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 20 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] The military said yesterday the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] is split by the issue on who is chairman of the underground party.

Col. Oscar Florendo, Armed Forces spokesman, quoting reports from the military intelligence, said the party is undecided on the Status of Jose Maria Sison, party founder who was captured in 1978 and Benito Tiamzon, said to be the current party chairman.

Sison, Florendo said, is regarded by some of his former colleagues in the party as "chairman on leave," and Tiamzon is a mere caretaker.

Florendo added that printouts of the computer diskettes seized during the March 29 raid of a major CPP safe-house in San Juan indicated a rift in the collegial body that decides and spells out directions for the party and its 25,000-strong military arm, the New People's Army.

Intelligence findings released to the media lately had also confirmed intramurals in the badly depleted CPP hierarchy, which has, however, been slowly regrouping more experienced, educated and ideologically prepared leaders.

Sison, a former University of the Philippines (UP) professor, founded the Communist party of the Philippines in 1968 after breaking away from the traditional party. Sison, along with a number of hardened student activists, chose to follow the Maoist line as against the Moscow orientation of the party.

As founding chairman, he was for years on top of the three major organs of the party, the central committee composed of 25 members, the executive committee which has five members and the politburo, which has seven members.

After at least six of the 25 central committee members who took over party reins after Sison's capture have fallen into government hands successively since 1980. The last to fall were Rafael Baylosis, Romulo Kintanar, and Benjamin de Vere, who were rounded up last March 29 in Metro Manila.

Further on CPP 'Rift'

*BK200629 Manila PNA in English 0548 GMT
20 Apr 88*

[Text] Manila, April 20 (PNA-OANA)—Serious dissension plagues the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) as Central Committee leftovers are split on the issue of who is chairman of the underground movement.

The party leadership, according to military officials, has been depleted following the capture last month of top ranking Central Committee members who form the backbone of the leftist movement.

Freed Communist Party founder Jose M. Sison, a former professor of the state-run University of the Philippines, is still being regarded as chairman although the top post is reportedly occupied by a lower echelon member identified as Benito Tiamzon.

Armed Forces Spokesman Col Oscar Florendo said this leadership issue has triggered intramurals within the party's collegial body.

Several of the party's key leaders are in government custody. Among them erstwhile Chairman Rodolfo Salas who was collared in 1986 in a government-run hospital in Manila.

Alan Jasmines, erstwhile chairman of the Military Commission which supervises the 25,000-strong New People's Army (NPA), the party's armed wing, also remains in government custody.

Other leaders such as Romulo Kintanar, NPA chieftain, Rafael Baylosis, CPP general secretary, and Benjamin de Vera, erstwhile chairman of the Mindanao Revolutionary Party Committee; and four others have been rounded up, leaving a vacuum in the party leadership.

Sison founded the CPP in 1968 after breaking away from the traditional party. Along with hardened student activists, Sison chose to follow the Maoist line as against the Moscow orientation of the party.

He was arrested during the previous Marcos regime but was released from jail by President Corazon C. Aquino upon her assumption of the presidency last February, 1986.

Armed Forces Spokesman Col Oscar Florendo said some members of the powerful Central Committee still consider Sison as the CPP chairman and Tiamzon only as caretaker.

Sison has been in Europe since last year for a series of lectures and speaking engagements relating to the communist insurgency in the Philippines.

Florendo said that although Tiamzon is regarded only as caretaker, he has been putting in his people in important positions in order to get the upper hand, triggering a rift within the CPP leadership.

The CPP-NPA has been fighting a 20-year war to topple the government.

Special Antiterrorist Teams Planned for Manila
*HK200227 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 19 Apr 88*

[Text] The military yesterday [19 April] said some 3,000 members of the anti-terrorist group, dubbed the Special Operations Team [SOT], will soon be deployed in most of Metro Manila's depressed barangays to counter the

growing communist threat. Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre, chief of the Capital Regional Command [Capcom] and metropolitan police force director general, revealed this yesterday during a meeting with Quezon City officials led by Mayor Brigido Simon Jr. The deployment of the 3,000 SOT members is necessary and urgent to flush out communist rebels operating in Metro Manila's depressed areas, according to the Capcom chief. He said that the SOT, which will be headed by his deputy, Colonel Victor Chanco, is composed of highly trained and organized Capcom soldiers and Metro Manila policemen who would be fielded in specific areas identified as CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA infiltrated barangays.

Military Outlines Strategy on Mindanao Rebels
*HK190223 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 18 Apr 88*

[Text] The military will use an aggressive and radical strategy in fighting the communist insurgency in Mindanao by deploying and stationing troops both inside non-rebel strongholds and its areas of influence. Southern Command chief Brigadier General Manuel Cacanando outlined this strategy at a meeting with newsmen in Zamboanga City. He said the fastest way to fight the insurgency is by fighting the rebels in their own hideouts or without. [as heard] In this manner, he said, the civilian government will have the opportunity of getting into these areas and rendering services which are denied the people because of the rebels' presence. Because of the current cease-fire with the secessionist Moro rebels, the strategy will be concentrated in communist-held or -influenced areas mostly in mainland Mindanao.

Military Spokesman on Killing of Naval Officer
*HK191415 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Apr 88*

[Text] The killing of Colonel Delfin and his aide, draftee Elmo Daulong, in San Andres, Manila was allegedly revenge on the part of the NPA. Here is an interview with Colonel Oscar Florendo, spokesman of the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Formento] Sir, what is the reaction of the Armed Forces on the killing of members of the military?

[Florendo] All I can tell you, Bing and our listeners, is that we still have not received enough evidence to pin down the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA as the killers in the San Andres case. But if we look at the other information we have on hand, such as information that they plan to intensify terroristic activities not only in Metro Manila but also in the entire country, we can say that our conclusion that this was the handiwork of the CPP-NPA is not very far from the truth. In particular, a businessman was recently ambushed in front of Broadway Centrum. The modus operandi was similar to that of the communist rebels. If

it is indeed proven that this was committed by the communist rebels, it reveals their plan to cause disruptions in the current situation because their top leaders have been arrested and they want to prove that they can still function despite the arrests. We have evidence to show that they are not only committing murders but also engaging in robbery, kidnapping, etc. This is no longer ideology we are talking about, these people are criminals now. I do not think that they are thinking about their ideology. They are all liars.

[Formento] Sir, we have a question from Joe Taruc.

[Taruc] Colonel, we are pleased that your position is different from that of the police and military authorities who always blame the NPA for such murder incidents.

[Florendo] We are just trying to analyze the situation. After all, the people there are handicapped in their investigations. Now if we include the information already available, then our conclusions have more basis.

[Taruc] Some sectors in our society say that if we always blame the NPA for such incidents, some true stories will never be known.

[Florendo] That is why we are keeping an open mind. I am sure that as a result of these incidents, General Aguirre will not fail to explore other possibilities.

[Taruc] An eye-opener was the ambush of Malabon Mayor Oreta. General Aguirre had claimed that they believed it the work of the NPA, but it appears that it was most likely committed by other groups.

[Florendo] Perhaps we should wait for more conclusive evidence.

[Taruc] We hope that the authorities will probe the true causes of such incidents so that solution of the cases will give the people more confidence to cooperate with the authorities.

[Florendo] We will do that, Joe, and we will search for the root causes of such criminal incidents. [end recording]

[Formento] That was Colonel Oscar Florendo, who claimed that the ambush may be part of the NPA threat to intensify their terrorist activities following the arrest of their top officials. According to Colonel Florendo, the NPA will commit more atrocities such as robbery, kidnapping, and hijacking in various parts of the country in order to step up their propaganda and revive a weakening organization.

Delfin and Daulong, according to a police report, were riding a minicruiser on their way to the military headquarters when they were stopped and shot by four young men at around 1130 this morning.

Bing Formento reporting from Camp Aguinaldo. [end recording]

Suspected NPA Hitmen Kill Three in Bacolod
BK221155 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1000 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Two policemen and a barangay (?tanut) were killed in an ambush last night in front of the Bacolod City cemetery. Police identified the victims as Patrolman (Rosaro Alindungan) and (Ricardo Cardenas) and barangay (?tanut) (Anselmo Bayon). Initial reports said seven unidentified men believed to be NPA rebels riding aboard a red (tamarau) jeepney opened fire at the victims. For the other details, here is Buddy Ferrer of RPN News, Bacolod.

[Begin Ferrer recording]? Two policemen and a barangay (?tanut) were killed in an ambush Thursday night believed staged by the CPP/NPA. Died instantly due to multiple gunshot wounds were Patrolman (Rosaro Alindungan) and (Anselmo Bayon), a barangay (?tanut). Another casualty was Patrolman (Ricardo Cardenas) who died later in a local hospital. The ambush occurred about 0830 pm in front of the Bacolod cemetery when seven armed men fired their automatic rifles to the law enforcement [personnel] about to return to precinct in Villamonte in [words indistinct]. The policemen were able to fight back, but later on, outnumbered by armed men, who escaped immediately carting away the victims' firearms. [Sentence as heard] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Senator Mercado's Brother-in-law Murdered
HK191433 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] An executive of the General Milling Company was killed by two men and a woman this morning. Wilfred Douglas Uytensu was reportedly coming out of his house in New Manila, Quezon City when he was shot in front of Broadway Centrum. He died instantly and his body is presently undergoing autopsy at the National Bureau of Investigation. Uytensu was the brother-in-law of Senator Orlando Mercado.

Bohol Military Pursues Ambushers of Army Jeep
HK191343 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Let us hear the report from Tagbilaran, Bohol City by Peter Diaresco.

[Begin Diaresco recording in English] Provincial commander Lieutenant Colonel Alfonso Oranza this morning said that his men and the Army troopers based in Carmen, Bohol are in hot pursuit of the armed band who ambushed an Army jeep early yesterday morning along the national highway in Pilar, Bohol. This came even as one Army trooper, identified as Private First Class Pio Ho, was confirmed killed during yesterday's ambush.

Colonel Oranza said that the armed band could still be somewhere in Bohol after staging the ambush yesterday morning. Another victim, identified only as Private Misera, was also wounded and is now recuperating in a government hospital here in the capital city of Tagbilaran.

That's the report coming live from Bohol, Peter Diaresco reporting from station DYRD. [end recording]

Two Killed in Clashes in Davao, Quezon
HK191259 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] An NPA terrorist and an Alsa Masa member were killed in two separate incidents in the last 2 days. According to a report from Recom [Regional Command] 11 in Davao City, about 50 NPA terrorists harassed elements of the CHDF in Turil District, Davao City at 1130 last Saturday. The terrorists were allegedly led by a certain Commander Bisnar.

An ensuing fierce encounter resulted in the death of Dodong Castillo and wounded Carlito Espanares, both Alsa Masa members. The terrorists took away with them a Thompson sub-machine gun and a .22 caliber revolver belonging to the victims. A reinforcement team was dispatched to pursue the attackers, who fled in a still unidentified direction.

Meanwhile, the Quezon Constabulary Command reported to Camp Aguinaldo on a clash which resulted in the death of an NPA terrorist identified as Reynaldo Alelilla. Two troopers were reported wounded in the clash and were identified as Patrolman Mirlo Lunoca and Patrolman Virgilio Pabilan.

According to the report, the two policemen, along with a colleague identified as Patrolman Teofilo Dipasibid, encountered a group of around five NPAs in Mabini Street, Pitogo, Quezon. A 2-minute gunbattle followed, before the terrorists retreated. The slain NPA was brought to the Pitogo police station for autopsy and disposition; while the two wounded policemen were brought to the Gumaca District Hospital.

Muslim Youths Assail Consultative Body
HK200241 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] In Zamboanga City, club-wielding police yesterday [19 April] dispersed about 200 Muslim youths who tried to force their way into a meeting of the Regional Consultative Commission [RCC] seeking to draft an autonomy law for the southern Philippines. Ten demonstrators belonging to the radical Bangsa Moro [Muslim Nation] Solidarity Conference were injured during the melee at the regional government offices in Taratangan village. Witnesses said the youths, chanting Allah Akbar, or God is great, and carrying placards demanding the abolition of the RCC, forced their way into the

tightly guarded complex. A spokesman for the group said they wanted to talk to members of the commission which President Aquino convened last month to help draft legislation granting self rule to the Muslim-dominated regions in the southern Philippines. After the meeting, seven commission members talked with the demonstrators. The protesters said the government body should be abolished because it was being used as a tool by the Aquino Government to appease the Muslims and was not sincere in working for autonomy.

Aquino Stresses Deferment Of Loan Payment
HK211018 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] President Cory Aquino stressed the need to defer and delay the payment of the country's \$28 billion foreign debts. At the same time, she also voiced her support to the demand of other heavily-indebted Third World countries to defer payments to foreign creditor-banks.

The president made these statements in her meeting with officials of the World Confederation of Labor who paid her a call at Malacanang. This was reported by Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno to newsmen in Malacanang.

[Begin Benigno recording in English] We will honor our debts, but at the same time, our creditors should realize our goals. We have to grow, and we cannot grow if most of our earnings are used to settle our debts. I have already appealed to our creditors to understand our problems and help us, perhaps by reducing the interest payments, or helping us expand our trade. We are not asking for dole-outs or grants, but we would like budgets for our exports. We are now busy talking with our creditors to help us lessen the burden on the government and on the entire country.

That is what she said this morning. [end recording]

Meanwhile, according to John Kulakovski of the World Confederation of Labor, the president also stressed her preference for labor intensive investments in the country in order to create more jobs for the Filipino people.

[Begin Kulakovski recording in English] She told us that it was a very important question to the Filipino government that the government, of course, would like to pay debts, but payment of the debts is something which makes it very difficult for the the country to progress. And for this reason, the president, the government met the financiers. And the presidents of the debtor countries are trying to have talks with creditor countries and with banks in order to have facilities delaying payments of the debts. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Payment of foreign loans is one of the most serious problems of the country, and it is estimated that 40 percent of the government's budget goes to servicing of the country's \$28 billion foreign debts.

House Debt Plan Discussed

HK220801 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
22 Apr 88 p 24

[Text] The House of Representatives is considering a 20-point plan for resolving the country's foreign debt problem.

The plan, proposed by Rep. Jose de Venecia (Lakas ng Bansa [power of the nation], Pangasinan), was submitted to the House committee on economic affairs yesterday for consideration and study.

Among others, the 20-point plan calls for the following.

—Expanding the volume and coverage of the debt-to-equity swap program under Central Bank Circular No 1111;

—Retiring \$1.5 billion of the foreign debt by issuing \$1 billion worth of Philippine dollar bonds back-stopped by 20-year zero-coupon U.S. Treasury bonds;

—Utilizing part of the bases rental or compensation package to acquire more U.S. Treasury bonds or to accept partial payment for the U.S. bases in U.S. Treasury bonds for further exchange with Philippine debt instruments;

—Utilizing a portion of Japanese payments for the U.S. bases rental (assuming the Japanese government will share in the future payment of the rent for the bases) to acquire Japanese samurai bonds to backstop Philippine dollar bonds;

—Using a portion of official development assistance (ODA) for the country to fund Philippine purchases of US Treasury bonds or Japanese bonds to further support and enlarge the debt-for-bond program;

—Requesting the World Bank to co-guarantee the coupon rate or interest on Philippine dollar bonds;

—Imposing a ceiling of 4 percent-5 percent on the interest to be paid to the country's 483 debtor banks'

—Capitalizing interest to support the interest rate capping scheme; and

—Restructuring the terms of the country's debts to Paris Club members.

Investments Said Increased by 32.9 Percent

HK220805 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
22 Apr 88 pp 1, 13

[Text] Corporate investment appears to be on the uptrend as fresh capital for new and existing companies soared by 32.88 percent during the first three months of 1988, from P1.7751 billion in the same period in 1987 to P2.3587 billion.

Total investments from some 2,962 newly incorporated firms reached P831.4 million, while 186 existing firms gearing for expansion poured in P1.5275 billion during the first quarter of 1988.

However, foreign investments dipped by 3.2 percent during the quarter in review. Cumulative foreign equity amounted to P340.4 million during the first three months of 1988 as compared to 1987's P351.7 million. This may be attributed to the lackluster performance of January, the election month.

After a slowdown resulting from the uncertainty brought about by the local elections during the first month of 1988, investments started to pick up again.

Foreign investments for March soared to P167.4 million, up by 71 percent from P97.9 million in February. "The continuing increase of foreign inflows in local businesses indicated that foreign capitalists were gaining confidence in the Philippine economy," the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said in its monthly report. However, the commission noted that last month's increase in foreign investments fell short of the P234.8 million recorded in March 1987.

Chinese investors, pouring in a total of P10.6 million, led foreign investors in new companies, while the Americans, who infused P67.4 million to their subsidiaries, were the biggest reinvestors in March.

Last month, a total of 1,182 corporations were formed, up by 23.4 percent from February's 958. "With the entrepreneurs' confidence in the innovative capacity of the government to handle the challenges surrounding the economic environment, corporate formations continued to increase," the SEC said.

Of the 1,182 newly incorporated firms, domestic stock corporations numbered 760, the highest monthly figure ever recorded. These new entities poured in P385.5 million last month. Pacific Plaza, Inc, a real estate firm, registered last month with an initial paid-up capital of P64.5 million, boasting investments of new entities in the real estate sector.

Some 82 existing corporations, on the other hand, infused a total of P819.7 million last month, the highest during the first quarter of 1988. Total investments of existing corporations zoomed up by almost 70 percent, from P900.7 million during the first quarter of 1987 to P1.5275 billion.

Editorial on Poverty of Government Workers
HK191509 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 19 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Mass Layoff, Starvation Wages Plague Government Men"]

[Text] Three out of every four government employees live below the poverty line, says a study of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, [HUDCC] confirming the observation that state workers are generally underpaid.

Figures analyzed by the HUDCC show that 75.81 percent of members of the Government Service Insurance System are below the poverty line, which the HUDCC determined in 1987 to be P3,282 a month. The plight of government workers is worse than that of all families nationwide, among whom only 63.4 percent are below the poverty line. Families living below the line do not meet their daily basic needs such as the minimum amount of food, medicine, clothing, rent and education.

To say that the economic situation of government employees is not conducive to efficient and honest work is to state the obvious. But that point cannot be stressed enough, especially in the light of the Administration's avowed campaign against corruption in the service and the constitutional mandate for the payment of a "living wage" to workers.

The issue of starvation wages comes on top of the government-wide problem of legions of state workers being dismissed wholesale in the name of reorganization. There are a myriad of other problems plaguing the bureaucracy, not the least of which are corruption, immorality, favoritism, inefficiency and the gross incompetence of political appointees.

In addressing these problems, it would pay to first review and reaffirm the very concept of the civil service. There has been a long-lingering misconception that the government is just one employment agency, that the civil servant need not work hard since he is not expected to anyway. As the Administration moves to streamline the government service as part of ongoing reforms, the question of paying a "living wage" stares it in the face. It cannot avoid the stark figures brought out in the HUDCC study.

Thailand

Reported Arrest of Second Hijack Team Denied
BK221409 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 22
Apr 88

[Text] Bangkok, April 22 (AFP)—Senior Thai officials Friday [22 April] denied reports that the police have arrested four people planning to hijack a second plane in Bangkok along with the Kuwaiti airliner seized April 5 after leaving here.

"I am trying to find out who said that," said an official who requested anonymity. "It is not true."

The INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE Friday cited reports from Beirut that plans to hijack a second aircraft were called off after Thai policemen arrested the would-be hijackers.

Airport Authority of Thailand (AAT) Deputy Managing Director Anek Udit said Friday there had been no arrests here in connection with the April 5 hijacking.

He said the authorities remained convinced no weapons were smuggled aboard the Kuwaiti airliner here.

International Air Transport Association (IATA) Security Chief Rodney Wallis said in Montreal April 12 that weapons were possibly placed on board the aircraft by people servicing the plane during its 15-hour layover here.

The hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane demanded the release of 17 pro-Iranian terrorists jailed in Kuwait. They killed two Kuwaiti hostages and gradually released the rest, then vanished Tuesday after landing in Algiers.

Meanwhile, Thai police said they had stepped up security measures at six embassies after the hijacking.

Guard units have been increased at the Kuwaiti, Iraqi, Iranian, Israeli, U.S. and British Embassies, an officer in the Police Department Director-General's Office said.

He denied a report in the Thai-language daily NAO NA on Thursday that the increased security measures were connected to Moslem separatist guerrilla operations in southern Thailand.

The newspaper said Crime Suppression and Special Branch Police Divisions were joining forces against (7210) Moslem separatists who were trained in Libya "in terrorism and unconventional warfare" and had recently returned to Buddhist Thailand's Moslem-dominated south.

More Security at U.S., Iran, Israel Embassies
BK211011 Bangkok NAO NA in Thai
21 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] A highly placed source in the Crime Suppression Division disclosed that Central Investigation Bureau Commander Police Lieutenant General Prathin Santi-praphop met with Crime Suppression Division Commander Police Major General Rungrot Yamakakun at the former's office on the morning of 20 April. The Crime Suppression Division was instructed to make preparations to prevent any untoward incidents by sending its forces to assist the Special Branch Division officers protecting important Thailand-based foreign dignitaries and foreign embassies, such as those belonging to the United States, Iran, and Israel.

The source reports the reason Pol Lt Gen Prathin asked Crime Suppression Division to assist the Special Branch Division is that the Special Branch Division had reported to him that 210 southern separatists who have been sent to undergo training in terrorism and unconventional warfare in Libya in seven batches—each comprising 30 men—have already come back, and they are ready to create incidents in Bangkok and in the southern region.

The source said that after receiving the order from the commander of the Central Investigation Bureau, Pol Maj Gen Rungrot Yamakakun asked Police Lt Col Aditthep Panchamanon, inspector of the 2d Section of the Crime Suppression Division, to put a task force with the best selected men from the division's commando unit on alert round the clock at the base of the Crime Suppression Division's 2d Section at Soi Chokchai 4 on Lat Phrao Road.

A Songkhla-based correspondent of NAO NA reported that on the morning of 20 April, Aphichat Chunsawek, Saba Yoi District headman, met with Governor Chit Ninphanit to report to him on the activities of southern separatists in Saba Yoi District.

Later, Aphichat disclosed he had come to report on the activities of the southern separatists operating in Saba Yoi District. It was known that two groups—each comprising 15 members—are in hiding at the common border area of three provinces of Songkhla, Yala, and Narathiwat, in order to carry out terrorism in the area.

"Before coming to the governor to report on the movement of the southern separatists, I ordered village headmen to arrange patrol missions to protect all government buildings round the clock," Aphichat said.

Meanwhile, Police Col Thammnun Thapkhleo, Songkhla provincial police chief, following a report on the movement of the southern separatists, said he has ordered a special operation unit to provide security for people and official buildings round the clock.

House Postpones Debate on Copyright Bill
BK220129 Bangkok THE NATION in English
22 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Widespread fears of a House dissolution if the bill faces strong opposition caused a postponement of the second and final readings of the government's copyright amendment to next Thursday.

MPs from the government coalition and the opposition bloc said they heard reports that Premier Prem Tinsulanon contemplated dissolving the House if the bill did not receive adequate support during its scheduled House readings yesterday.

Coalition leaders yesterday morning quickly arranged to have government MPs call on Prem at his Si Sao residence in the evening to show their support for his administration. At the same time, they also made sure the copyright amendment did not reach the House floor yesterday afternoon.

The copyright amendment was listed as the seventh item on yesterday's agenda. However, five trivial interpellations took almost all the meeting time in the morning. House Speaker Chuan Likphai permitted MPs to talk freely without reminding them to go straight to the point.

The morning meeting managed to cover only the first item on the agenda, an amendment to the Criminal Code.

Dissident Democrat MPs in the Group of January 10 remained firm in their opposition to the copyright amendment, which doesn't specifically exclude computer software from protection. They met at Royal Hotel during the lunch break to plan their strategy in spite of repeated appeals of Democrat whips to toe the party line and vote for the bill.

The dissidents decided to stand their ground.

MP Chaloephan Siwicon (Bangkok), a leader of the group, told reporters after the meeting that his group wants the law to make clear that computer software copyrights will not be protected. Otherwise, the group wants a separate bill to this effect proposed to the House. [passage omitted]

Democrat Party on Wednesday failed to form a quorum to rule on how to vote on the copyright bill. The dissident Democrats interpreted this as a signal for free vote.

Party spokeswoman Suphatra Matsadit said all Democrats should follow the tradition of voting for government bills even though the party wanted the copyright law to exclude computer software.

Three dissident Democrats and 10 opposition MPs have registered their reservations about the government bill. They all want to exclude computer software from copyright protection.

Three other government parties have officially instructed all of their MPs to vote for the copyright amendment.

But without a clear ruling by Democrat Party, the largest in the government coalition with 99 MPs, coupled with the defiance of the Group of January 10, the bill could have run into trouble if it had been presented for second and final readings yesterday.

Prime Minister Greet New PRC Leaders
BK200751 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English
1500 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] General Prem Tinsulanon, Thai prime minister, last week sent his congratulatory message to Yang Shangkun and Li Peng, who have recently been elected president and premier of the People's Republic of China, respectively.

On behalf of the Thai people and Government, Gen Prem is still confident that under their leadership and guidance, the existing close ties and relations and cooperation between the two countries will be further consolidated and prosper for the mutual interest and prosperity of the two peoples and countries.

Sitthi Speaks on Foreign Ministry Anniversary
BK171454 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 14 Apr 88

["Text" of Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila's address marking the 113th anniversary of the Foreign Ministry; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear fraternal Thai people: Today marks the 113th anniversary of the Foreign Ministry. I would like to take this opportunity to explain to the Thai people the Foreign Ministry's tasks in the past year.

It is well known that the Thai Foreign Ministry has been active since the Sukhothai period. Thai diplomats have shown their abilities to other countries many times. Most importantly, they have enabled the country to survive crises and have helped the country maintain its independence up to now. Moreover, the foreign tasks and activities of Thailand have varied as times change, due to both internal and external factors.

At present, our country has changed and developed considerably. Simply put, Thailand has become a country which has progressed to another level of economic and social prosperity. Thailand has become a country that enjoys a trade surplus with large, important nations like the United States, Canada, and several European countries for the first time. In other words, Thailand has become a country which has economic and trade potentials equal to those of dozens of other countries that we were unable to compete with in the past.

At the same time, the external atmosphere—politically and economically—has also changed greatly. Thailand presently has diplomatic relations with 143 countries. Countries have to depend on each other more and more. Changes in politics, the military, economics, and trade—whether in big or small countries—all affect other countries. As a result, Thailand's foreign policy has changed. In the past, diplomats acted only as representatives of the country. At present, the weight of diplomacy is on negotiations and bargaining and is an important mechanism to help strengthen international political stability and to bring about prosperity and economic progress for the country. The changes in the internal and external atmosphere mean that the Foreign Ministry will unavoidably have much more work and have to face more problems.

The Foreign Ministry is one of the smallest ministries, with only 1,200 officials. But we have never been discouraged by more duties and problems, because we have always adjusted our personnel, structure, and policy to face the new foreign atmosphere.

In international politics, the Foreign Ministry continues to attach importance to the Cambodian problem, because the problem directly affects the country's security and the livelihood of the Thai people. If the Cambodian problem is resolved, it will benefit Thailand's

security interests and lead to the solution of the refugee problem and other related problems; this will mean that Thailand will be able to continuously develop its economy and society for the well-being of all Thai people. Although the problem has not yet been settled, there are ways that it could be resolved in the near future. The Foreign Ministry will continue to uphold the principles of defending the country's interests in the long term.

Another very important success in international politics is that Thailand has been able to establish diplomatic relations with as many as 143 countries, as I mentioned at the beginning. This will not only enable Thailand to earn wider recognition in the international community, but will also pave the way for the expansion of the Thai economy, trade, and cooperation.

Dear fraternal Thai people: Another important task of the Foreign Ministry is to strengthen the economic interests of the country. The Foreign Ministry is cooperating with other government agencies and the private sector to bring about economic progress and prosperity for the country. The Foreign Ministry has directed its embassies, consular offices, and permanent missions abroad to step up contacts with foreign politicians and businessmen; seriously and consistently look after Thai interests; and expand Thailand's economic and trade relations with other countries, especially our traditional important trade partners such as the United States, the European Community, Japan, China, and ASEAN, as well as to try to negotiate trade disputes and find ways to expand trade volumes. They have also been instructed to explore more new markets in every region, such as South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the South Pacific, Eastern Europe, and even South America, which is very far from Thailand.

Besides promoting trade, the Foreign Ministry is also cooperating closely with other government agencies to seek ways of solving the country's important economic problems, such as fishing problems, falling prices of agricultural products, unfair trade practices, and the import of precious stones from Sri Lanka. All these problems impact on the livelihood of millions of Thai people. Some of these problems have been successfully resolved; while some of them, though not yet completely solved, are in the progress of being solved and need some more time.

Dear fraternal Thai people: Another important task of the Foreign Ministry is protecting the interests of Thai citizens overseas. All Thai citizens who earn their living from legal jobs in all areas are under the protection of the Thai Government. Thai people working abroad, no matter whether they are engaged in fishing, labor, business, or other fields, have all brought in foreign exchange that totals dozens of billions of baht. Their money has been sent back to foster the prosperity of the country. These Thai are considered to be people who have contributed to the country. In the past year, the Foreign Ministry has secured the release of 7,892 Thai fishermen

jailed abroad, and has consistently sent officials to look after and seek ways of helping other fishermen still in jail. In protecting Thai laborers, the Foreign Ministry has cooperated with other government agencies concerned with solving labor disputes, defending the rights and interests of Thai workers, and helping Thai workers who have difficulties abroad. The Foreign Ministry has tried its best, realizing that those laborers are the country's valuable human resource.

All I have mentioned are accomplishments of the Foreign Ministry in the past year. I realize that all this work would not have been successful without the cooperation of Foreign Ministry officials and good cooperation from other government agencies, Parliament, and the private sector, as well as all the Thai people. I, and all the Foreign Ministry officials, thank you on this occasion. I would like to stress and reaffirm once again that the tasks of the Foreign Ministry are very important and must be carried out efficiently and with the support of all sides in order to achieve the major aims that have never changed in the implementation of Thai foreign policy—to preserve the highest interests of our country on the basis of righteousness and justice. This will not only enable our country to exist stably and have independence, sovereignty, reputation, and prestige equal to other civilized countries in the international community, but also enable our country to develop smoothly so that all the Thai people will have a better livelihood.

UNHCR Renting Island for Refugees Proposed
BK220735 Bangkok Domestic Service in English
0000 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Thailand has proposed that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] rent an island or defunct ship to house new Vietnamese arrivals before they are resettled in third countries. The proposal was made by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior Somphon Klinphongsas who returned on Tuesday from a 3-week study tour of Indochinese refugees in the United States.

Mr Somphon said U.S. officials concerned with refugee affairs wanted the Thai Government to relax its tough policy on Indochinese refugees on humanitarian grounds. However, Mr Somphon said he told U.S. officials that Thailand cannot comply with the request because it will cause an unlimited influx of Vietnamese boat people into Thailand.

Mr Somphon said he also suggested that U.S. officials speed up the Orderly Departure Program to effectively resettle refugees in third countries. Mr Somphon, who made his inspection tour to San Francisco, Minnesota, and Washington D.C., said Vietnamese resettlement in the United States has become a big business. Each settler has to pay about U.S.\$100,000 to Vietnamese authorities to get out of Vietnam. Another U.S.\$40,000 has to be paid for travel to Thailand via Kampuchea.

Radio Defends Plan for War Reserve Stockpile
BK180946 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 18 Apr 88

["Article": "War Reserve Stockpile"]

[Text] Listeners, if we pay attention to the situation around our country we will see that it is precarious. A good example of this is the situation along the border with Cambodia and Laos. Although the fighting along the Lao border at Ban Romklao has ended, the Lao radio has continued to incessantly broadcast slanderous propaganda against Thailand. Therefore, we cannot be totally relaxed. The Heng Samrin side has often fired artillery shells from the Cambodian border into Thai territory, damaging property and injuring Thai people living along the border. And the genocidal war in Cambodia has not abated. For this reason, it can be said that an act of hostility can start at any time along our border. Therefore, Thailand must always be alert and prepared.

Safeguarding national independence and sovereignty is of extreme importance. To strengthen national security, the Thai and U.S. Governments have cooperated in setting up a war reserve stockpile [WRS] in Thailand so the Thai Armed Forces can draw from it immediately in an emergency. The purpose of the WRS is to enhance the capability of the Thai Armed Forces enabling them to fight on a continuous basis and effectively defend the country from external attacks regarded as a threat to Thai security.

The cooperation between the Thai and U.S. Governments—to strengthen Thailand's security in the event of external hostility by providing it with an instant supply of weapons—is very useful. Our weapons reserve is not for aggression, and it is within Thailand's right to have such a reserve. However, it is strange that certain countries have charged that the reserve is counterproductive. At the same time, those countries have constantly increased their stocks of weapons given them by their allies. Thailand will be at a disadvantage if this weapons reserve is not balanced. Besides, because Thailand cherishes peace and is friendly toward all countries regardless of their political ideologies, the WRS in Thailand is not intended for external aggression, as is the case with certain countries. This has been the policy of the current Thai Government.

Paper Urges 'Restraint' Over Censure Motion
BK200211 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
20 Apr 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Restraint Needed Over Censure Bid"]

[Text] The Opposition's no-confidence debate against Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and his Cabinet ministers is now tentatively scheduled for May 9 which was regarded as appropriate timing as all ministers will be in the country.

But despite an announcement by the Prime Minister that his administration is ready for the showdown and an assurance from his secretary-general, Prasong Sunsiri, that the censure motion will not be stalled by a dissolution of the Parliament, it remains a big question mark whether the Opposition will be able to censure the Government as intended.

It appears that some of the people who are, one way or another, close to the Prime Minister could well be using all means at hand to blunt the motion just to demonstrate their unwavering loyalty or gratitude towards Gen Prem. Standing in the forefront and baring his chest against all odds to shield the premier is Colonel Phon Roengprasoetwit of the United Democratic Party whose 19 MPs joined 66 other opposition MPs in endorsing the censure motion.

It is, nevertheless, heartening that the Army has decided not to muddy itself as it has in the past by becoming involved in the censure attempt. The Army, especially its Commander-in-Chief, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, will only stand to lose and see its image further tarnished if it, again, gets itself involved in parliamentary politics.

After all, the foremost duty of our soldiers is to defend the country, but certainly not to the extent of meddling in politics to safeguard a government against opposition criticisms.

Constitutionally, the Opposition has the full right to censure the Prime Minister and his Cabinet as a whole or individual ministers if it can muster the support of a minimum of one-fifth of the number of the House of Representatives. It is, therefore, a legitimate tool of the Opposition to check the performance of the Government. In the same manner, the Prime Minister is empowered to dissolve the Parliament and call a new election if he feels the Opposition is deliberately obstructing his administration or on whatever grounds he deems fit to justify the action.

Given the overwhelming support in the House of Representatives that the Government has enjoyed, there is virtually no reason why the Prime Minister's protectors should worry about the Opposition. For the Opposition to be able to get enough votes to censure the Government seems to be an impossible dream that even opposition leaders themselves have openly conceded.

By allowing the debate to proceed uninterrupted, the Government will demonstrate to the Opposition as well as to the general public alike that it is frank, openminded and as democratic as the Opposition.

Opposition criticisms aside, the debate will, on the other hand, provide a good opportunity for the Government to pronounce to the public its achievements and what it intends to do for the good of the country and its citizenry. Its image, too, will be bolstered.

There is not a successful individual who has never made a mistake. Likewise, a government which has never faulted may have never achieved anything.

Only a government which is receptive to criticism, sincere and responsive towards the needs of the public will gain and retain the trust and confidence of its countrymen.

Briefs

Official Census Figures

Thailand's population as of December 31 was 53,873,172, according to the official census compiled by

the Central Registration Office. The census shows that there were 27,070,155 men and 26,803,017 women throughout the country. The Bangkok population was 5,609,352, divided into 2,823,675 men and 2,785,677 women. Thirteen provinces have populations over one million. They were: Bangkok, 5,609,352; Nakhon Ratchasima, 2,298,024; Ubon Ratchathani, 1,810,846; Udon Thani, 1,740,650; Khon Kaen, 1,638,260; Buriram, 1,382,451; Nakhon Si Thammarat, 1,376,926; Chiang Mai, 1,313,859; Sisaket, 1,261,694; Surin, 1,237,770; Roi Et, 1,184,070; Nakhon Sawan, 1,059,909 and Songkhla, 1,044,644. Ranong had the smallest population with 104,524. [Text] [BK170410 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 88 p 2]

Fiji

Militants Threaten Violence Over UK Queen Title
BK221430 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Suva, April 22 (AFP)—The Taukei Melanesian pressure group has threatened violence to protest giving the title of tui viti (chief of Fiji) to Queen Elizabeth II, Taukei leaders said here Friday.

The threat follows the suspension of an assistant provincial administrator who spoke out against the move by the interim civilian government.

Ratu Apenisa Cakombau said the title rightfully belonged to his father Ratu Sir George, a former governor general of Fiji.

Ratu Sir George is the great-grandson of Ratu Seru Cakombau, who was a signatory to the 1884 treaty of cession which gave Fiji to Queen Victoria.

A Taukei spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Ratu Apenisa had approached the movement and expressed his concern at Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's decision to give the title away.

Taukei leaders decided at a meeting here Friday to hit back with acts of violence similar to those used before the May military coup last year, the spokesman said.

He said that Taukei also bitterly opposed moves by the interim government to deliberately delay implementation of the new constitution.

"We are serious, there will be trouble," the spokesman said.

He declined to give details of Taukei action, but said that any foreigners who got in the way would be hurt.

Australian Envoy Pledges 'Sound, Positive' Ties
BK210706 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Australia's ambassador to Fiji, Mr Robert Cotton, has promised that his country will work with Fiji with sympathy and understanding of the complex issues facing it. Mr Cotton was presenting his credentials to President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau in Suva.

The ambassador said Australia had a firm commitment to a sound and positive relationship with Fiji, and he would do his best to strengthen it.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS points out that since Fiji left the Commonwealth on becoming a republic, overseas missions from Commonwealth countries, previously high commissions, have become embassies, and Mr Cotton, a 44-year-old career diplomat is therefore Australia's first ambassador to Fiji.

In his address to the president, Mr Cotton said installation of the interim civilian government in December had encouraged Australia. He said Australia believed that reestablishment of a democratic parliamentary system under a constitution acceptable to all Fiji's people was a key to solving outstanding problems.

In his remarks, the Fiji president said Mr Cotton's appointment illustrated the close relations between Australia and Fiji despite the events of last year. He said he looked forward to Fiji-Australian cooperation in developing closer ties and promoting regional peace and security.

New Caledonia

Gendarmes Injured in Pre-Election Violence
BK220050 Hong Kong AFP in English 0023 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Noumea, April 22 (AFP)—Several gendarmes were injured at the New Caledonian town of Ouvea, in the Loyalty Islands, Friday morning in clashes with pro-independence militants, reliable sources here said.

No details were immediately available as regular communications links between Ouvea and the main island of this French territory were cut.

Disturbances had been feared here ahead of Sunday's double election contest in the archipelago, to elect the French president and local and regional officials.

Meanwhile, police here reported that the town hall of Paita, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of Noumea was severely damaged by arson early Friday.

Three offices, furniture and documents were destroyed by the flames, police said, adding that an inflammable liquid had been sprayed at several points in the town hall.

The fire followed a bomb attack Thursday which caused slight damage to an electric transformer near the Armed Forces Headquarters here.

Pro-independence groups have called for a boycott of Sunday's elections and have threatened to disrupt them.

3 Gendarmes Killed, Hostages Taken
AU220658 Paris AFP in English 0412 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Paris, April 22 (AFP)—Native Melanesians killed three French gendarmes and abducted 26 others in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia on Friday, sources at Gendarmerie headquarters here said.

The 26 gendarmes were led into the bush at gun-point, with the some 30 assailants who stormed the gendarmerie station at Fayaowe, Ouvea, in the Loyalty islands, taking their weapons, the gendarmerie added.

The attackers were thought to be pro-independence militants. Reinforcements were immediately brought in and a rescue operation was planned for the next few hours, the gendarmerie said.

(Two injured Melanesians and one of two gendarmes injured in the attack were flown into the New Caledonian capital Noumea, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent there reported.

(The gendarme flown out appeared to have been hacked in the head, while one Melanesian had a bullet wound in the head and the other in the leg, the AFP correspondent said quoting the aircraft's pilot.

(Another wounded Melanesian and a gendarme were still in Ouvéa and should be evacuated to Noumea along with the families of all the gendarme force there, the pilot added.)

One injured gendarme was in serious condition, the gendarmerie here said.

The assailants first attacked a patrol, the gendarmerie said, and then went on to storm the gendarmerie station. Two wives of gendarmes and two children were left at the station when the hostages were taken, the gendarmerie here said.

It added that the three gendarmes died in a shootout, but it was not clear whether this happened when the patrol was attacked or at the gendarmerie station.

First word of the attack was sent to Noumea after a telephone or radio conversation between the gendarmerie station and a nearby army post at the Ouvéa airstrip was abruptly interrupted, the gendarmerie here said.

About 90 reinforcements, including special intervention forces and parachutists were immediately sent to the attacked station, the gendarmerie said.

About five local gendarmes and around 25 reinforcements were at the station at the time of the attack, it added. The Melanesian attackers belong to the Gossana tribe.

The attack was said to be related to Sunday's presidential and local elections. Nearly 3,000 gendarmes and special riot police had been sent to New Caledonia to insure order in the run-up to the polls and during the voting.

The pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) had called on the population to boycott the elections and warned that disturbances could erupt in the election campaign.

Friday's incidents were the most serious in the run-up to the elections so far.

The New Caledonia member of parliament Jacques Lafleur, of the Rally for Caledonia in the (French) Republic (RPCR), immediately condemned the attack, saying it was "intolerable that gendarmes be killed in cold blood."

He threatened leaders of those who perpetrated the attack with "a troubled life. They will not be allowed to act or move freely without paying the consequences."

Other incidents were reported in the towns of Voh and Paita, on the main island.

At Voh, about 12 attackers stole weapons from the house of a woman whom they left tied up. At Paita the city hall was badly damaged by arson, shortly after an explosion caused damage to an electric transformer, according to reliable sources.

Groups Condemn Killings

BK220608 Hong Kong AFP in English 0541 GMT
22 Apr 88

[Text] Noumea, April 22 (AFP)—The anti-independence Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) strongly condemned the attack made by presumed Melanesian separatists Friday in which three gendarmes were killed and 26 taken hostage.

The RPCR said in a statement that those who attacked the gendarmes at Fayaoué, Ouvéa, "must immediately pay the consequences."

Earlier, Jacques Lafleur, the RPCR member of parliament, said it was "intolerable that gendarmes be killed in cold blood."

The RPCR said that the Ouvéa incident, which was "marked by a determination to kill," was aimed at undermining regional elections scheduled for the French Pacific territory on Sunday—which will coincide with the first round of the French presidential election—and "terrorising" the population.

The RPCR also called on people to "go on the defensive." It urged that the "manipulators and instigators (of the violence) be prevented from moving around freely."

The New Caledonian group of the French rightwing National Front called for "the arrests not only of those who carried out the violence but of those leaders who were responsible for it, (Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) leaders) (Jean-Marie) Tjibaou and (Yeiwene) Yeiwene."

The National Front blamed the deaths at Ouvéa on "the laxity of a government which has shown for months that it neither knows how or wants to put an end to the terrorist activities of the FLNKS in the territory."

It called for the "immediate dissolution of the FLNKS as well as the so-called Kanak provisional government and the closing of the pro-independence radio station."

New Zealand

Briefs

New Air Force Jets

Defence Minister Bob Tizard has told the Air Force it can call tenders for the replacement of the ageing Strikemaster jets. Though Mr Tizard gave no price tag, it is understood the eventual purchase could range between \$55 million and \$170 million "all up." Last June an Air Force team went on a world trip to study seven aircraft in particular. It is understood the Air Force prefers the Italian Macchi 339, an aircraft also being eyed by Australia. New Zealand has 15 Strikemasters which must be replaced in the early 1990s. Six new wings purchased recently extended the life of some, but all are suffering from metal fatigue in the wings and main section of the aircraft because of the difficult environment they are flown in. The Strikemasters are based at Ohakea and are used for advance training for flying, and as a weapons platform. [Summary] [BK201314 Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 14 Apr 88 p 3]

Austrian-Made Rifles

The first significant modernisation of the Army's rifles in nearly 30 years was carried out at Burnham military camp this week with the issuing of 700 new Austrian-made weapons. Infantry soldiers of the 21st Battalion,

the core of the Army's Ready Reaction Force, were among the first units in New Zealand to receive the new Steyr weapons, which replaced Belgian and American designed rifles issued up to 28 years ago. The Army is to receive 18,000 of the new weapons, which will become the standard light weapons of the New Zealand Armed Forces. The first 5,000 rifles of the shipment were made in Austria, but the balance will be made by the Australian Office of Defence Production at its Lithgow factory. The Australian Army is also converting to Steyrs. [Excerpt] [BK201325 Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 14 Apr 88 p 14]

Papua New Guinea

Wingti-Somare Grand Coalition Collapses
BK220844 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Papua New Guinea's grand coalition of national stability has collapsed less than 2 days after its announced formation. Radio Australia correspondent in Port Moresby, Sean Dorney, reports that the coalition announced on Wednesday night by the prime minister, Mr Wingti, and the opposition leader, Mr Somare, collapsed under the weight of the conditions set by the supporters of both men.

The opposition leader, Mr Michael Somare, today called a news conference to announce that negotiations between the prime minister and himself to form a stable government in Papua New Guinea had failed.

Mr Somare claimed Mr Wingti had failed to tackle the main causes of instability in his government.

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DATE FILMED

25 April 1988
